

THE TIMES

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...and going
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Challenger faces big challenge

The space shuttle Challenger lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on its most challenging flight, during which it will retrieve and repair a disabled satellite. It will also launch a 9.5-ton satellite, carrying 57 experiments, the largest satellite ever carried by a shuttle.

Photograph, page 6

Jenkins defends gun purchase

Mr Roy Jenkins said he had authorized the Metropolitan Police to purchase six sub-machine guns when he was Home Secretary in 1976 because he and his advisers believed they were necessary if a "burst-in response" was needed when hostages' lives were at risk.

Broken pledge

Health ministers have gone back on a three-year-old promise to double the number of hospital consultants by 1996.

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School strike

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers have proposed a one-day national strike in protest at the employers' refusal to increase a pay off.

Page 2

Reagan's war

President Reagan has declared war on Congress. In a Washington speech he tried, for the second time this week, to blame it for recent foreign policy setbacks.

Back page

Chairman quits

Mr Clive Feigenbaum resigned as chairman of Stanley Gibbons, the stamp dealer, after the company was refused a stock market quotation.

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Jacobs tours

Ron Jacobs, president of the Rugby Football Union, will travel to South Africa as England's tour manager next month to forestall any political pressures.

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Glittering gold

Gold has regained its shine for dozens of entrants in The Times/Money Programme Unit Trust Competition this year and, on cue, Britannia's Gold and General Trust has reached second place.

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Measles drive

A campaign aimed at virtually eliminating measles starts in the autumn.

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Ballot hope doomed if Scargill plays it by the book

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The miners could be deprived of a secret ballot on the "rolling strike" in their industry by senior level manoeuvring within their union rule book, it was disclosed last night.

Moderate pit leaders who will demand a national poll at next week's meeting of the executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers fear that the left-wing president, Mr Arthur Scargill, will rule the proposal out of order.

A step of that sort would require a two-thirds majority to overturn, which the pro-ballot camp on the 24-member executive could not muster at the gathering in Sheffield on Thursday. The stoppage, which has closed down 1.2 of the industry's 176 pits, would then continue indefinitely without a ballot.

A leading moderate who declined to be named said: "I think Arthur Scargill will rule out of order a national ballot because it is not national action we are involved in. He knows that if he accepts a resolution for a national ballot there is a majority on the executive in favour."

Coalfield union leaders mandated or ready to vote for an early poll of the men on industrial action are understood

to be in a 14 to 10 majority. But if the nature of the argument is shifted to a vote for or against the president's ruling, some would be released from their area mandate and would back Mr Scargill.

The miners' president has consistently quoted rule 41 of the union rulebook. The rule gives the national executive power to sanction "a stoppage of work or any other industrial action short of a strike" in any of the union's constituent areas as the authority to back the strike.

The strike, now in its fourth week, has engulfed Yorkshire, Scotland, South Wales, Kent, Durham, Northumberland, most of Lancashire and parts of the Midlands.

The Times source said last night: "A national ballot will be called for. His (Mr Scargill's) answer to that will be that it is not in order, it is not national action. It is the Scottish area and Yorkshire, and under rule 41 we agreed that if any other area also encouraged members to take strike action we would make that action official in those areas. I think that is what he will do."

The miners' president was attending a local authority dinner in South Yorkshire and was not available for comment.

Such a move would be constitutional but it would "bring the wrath of the public down on his head," the moderate union executive member added. An alternative move gathering support among the centre-right group on the executive is to go hard for a national ballot with an appeal for strike action.

The union's rule book is clear on that point. It would require a 55 per cent majority of those voting to sanction a stoppage. An opinion poll last weekend suggested that 31 per cent of the men would opt for all-out industrial action.

A second signatory of the six-union declaration to blockade coal movements yesterday opted out of the agreement. The Transport, Salaries, Staffs Association, the white-collar rail workers' union, decided not to take sympathetic industrial action.

The 29-member executive of the association voted unanimously to instruct its 40,000 members to work normally. Mr Bert Lyons, general secretary, said support had been refused because there had been no official request from the miners' union executive.

Ravenscraig saved, page 2

NCB faces claim for £50m

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The National Coal Board, which has already lost export orders because of the miners' strike, now faces a £50m bill for compensating its main customer for switching to alternative fuel.

The Central Electricity Generating Board has spent £50m on 500,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil on the Rotterdam spotmarket to keep its power output up during the dispute and to preserve its coal stocks.

The CEBG has said that it will seek government compensation for turning to oil, as electricity produced by oil-burning stations is up to two-thirds more expensive than that produced from coal. And it is increasingly likely that the cost of the compensation will be passed on to the NCB accounts.

The CEBG has still to draw up its compensation claim, but has already said it expects that the Government will meet the extra cost of increased oil-burning.

The Department of Energy said yesterday that discussions

had not yet started on how the CEBG should be compensated for having to use more oil. Nor had it decided whether increased compensation would be granted if stocks of Australian coal were prevented by other trade union action from being moved from the Dutch stockpiles to the Thames coal-fired power stations.

The CEBG has been compensated for increasing oil consumption during previous industrial disputes. In 1982, the extra £17m cost of burning oil during the train drivers strike, which halted coal deliveries, was met by the Government, and recovered from British Rail, through deductions from its subsequent Government grant.

Mr Walter Marshall, CEBG chairman, is determined that, while the industry should pay for its own mistakes and reap the rewards of its successes, it should not be expected to pay extra costs incurred because of external interference or by meeting government requests.

The strike has already resulted in coal contracts being cancelled. The Scottish coalfield has lost a 140,000 tonne order and in the Midlands NCB managers are concerned that a 750,000 tonne annual contract with Northern Ireland could be lost to foreign competitors because of action being taken by the National Union of Seamen.

The coal from Northern Ireland — one of the few areas of the United Kingdom where coal still has a significant share of the domestic market — is being produced by the Midlands coalfields still working, but is being "blackout" by the seamen.

Mr Martin Curdren, the NCB Midlands marketing director, said: "Already shipments of foreign coal are being unloaded from foreign ships to take over the market and I expect more American and Polish coal to be diverted to the Northern Irish market if the seamen's action continues."

The Scottish coal fields are also dependent on the Northern Irish market.

Army coup attempt in Cameroon

Shooting was reported around the presidential palace in Yaounde, the Cameroon capital, in what appeared to be a coup attempt against President Paul Biya. Sources said elements in the Army mounted the attempt.

The normally stable, relatively prosperous West African country was cut off from the outside world: Yaounde radio went off the air.

Biya was not known. It is speculated that pro-Biya forces are pitted against rebels supporting Ahmadou Ahidjo, who stepped down in 1982.

Full report, page 6

Arthur 'Bomber' Harris dies aged 91

By Rupert Morris

Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, Chief of Bomber Command from 1942 to 1945, has died aged 91.

Sir Arthur, who died at his home in Goring, Oxfordshire, on Thursday, was one of the outstanding military figures of the Second World War. But his reputation suffered with the saturation bombing of German cities and he never achieved the peerage that many felt he deserved.

In 1942, he said in a broadcast to the German people: "We are going to scourge the Third Reich from end to end, if you make it necessary for us to do so."

Postwar historians were criti-

cal of his tactics, as were military and political leaders at the time, apart from Sir Winston Churchill.

It was only when Churchill became Prime Minister again in 1953 that the Airman was awarded a baronetcy.

Recently, historians have taken a different view of Sir Arthur's role, and the writings of Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister have suggested that British bombing was a crucial factor in keeping the German air force on the defensive.

Sir Arthur is survived by his second wife, Therese, whom he married in 1938.

Obituary, page 10

The agony of living on borrowed time

By Michael Horsnell

Brenda Barber went into the operating theatre for a heart-lung transplant knowing that the only two other patients to undergo such surgery in Britain had died. But when she was taken off a ventilator in the intensive care unit at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, yesterday morning, she was sure she had made the right decision. So was her husband.

"She knew it was her only option because there was no medication to be had," Mr Stephen Barber said. "She had been living on borrowed time as it was, and we agreed that it was worth the risk for however much time it might give her — two years or a lifetime. The operation did not come a minute too soon."

Mr Barber described seeing his wife, aged 36, in the special "bubble" room where she is recovering. "She had red in her cheeks and lips for the first time since I can remember and her lungs were working properly. You could see them doing their job. She is smiling, and very happy."

"She just said: 'It's nice to be able to breathe again'. You cannot imagine how much of an understatement that is. It means a whole new life. There have been times when her



Mr Barber: 'Her only option'

coughing and breathing have been so bad I have thought 'That's it; she's going'."

That agony reached a peak during the past six months as Mrs Barber lay in a London hospital bed with an oxygen mask clamped to her nose, her lips and fingers blue as she laboured for breath. Then, in the early hours of Thursday,

she underwent transplant surgery which took more than five hours. Her husband was at the hospital, holding a good luck charm, throughout the night.

"I am not an optimist nor a pessimist. I am a realist and I know that Brenda is definitely going to get better," he said. "I haven't gone weeping into corners and feeling bitter or

angry. That wouldn't have helped Brenda and she gets her strength from me."

The Barbers, who live in Lewisham, south London, met when both worked for the same supermarket chain and "were married 11 years ago. Within a year, Mrs Barber had started to cough constantly and went to see Professor Margaret Turner-Warwick at Brompton Hospital, who diagnosed fibrosis — a condition which congests the lungs.

Her condition remained stable for eight years, but then began to deteriorate two years ago, leaving her scarcely able to move and unable to cuddle her young daughter, Samantha Jane, now aged five. Doctors told Mr Barber that her only chance was a heart-lung transplant. That was a year before the programme of such surgery began at Harfield Hospital, west London. Brenda Barber was not told until much later.

"She was terrified, but she is a very brave lady," Mr Barber said yesterday. "Her brother's death (at Papworth awaiting a heart transplant) and the deaths of the two previous heart-lung patients has not helped. But it was a question of saying that here there is hope whereas the other way there was none."

Continued on back page, col 1

At the hop: Prince Andrew and Miss Yon on the Jamestown dance floor

A 'princess' for a night

An island beauty became a princess for a night as Prince Andrew pulled her out of a crowd to dance. Miss Deborah Yon, aged 21, who moved from St Helena, tried to get the Prince to watch a local dance from a balcony, but the world's

most eligible bachelor had other ideas.

The Prince gallantly waved his finger at Miss Deborah Yon, aged 21, who moved through the crowd of 600 dancers towards him. Then the couple walked back on to the

stone floor and danced for about four minutes as a band played "Love really hurts without you".

The Prince met Miss Yon, who lives just outside the island capital, Jamestown, earlier on a

Continued on back page, col 4

Tories will revolt against rates Bill

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government's heavy and contentious programme of legislation to reshape local government, came under fresh attack yesterday from its supposed friends, as well as its enemies.

Three former Conservative Cabinet ministers, Mr Francis Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr Geoffrey Rippon, demonstrated that they will vote next week against the Bill to cancel next year's elections to the metropolitan county councils.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment who is responsible for both measures, counter-attacked with four speeches delivered on a tour of Merseyside and Greater Manchester, promising better and cheaper local government.

Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party, speaking in Truro, said that the wrong result was the first step to tyranny. He said the Greater London Council and the six English metropolitan councils were created by the Conservatives in the belief that they would have Tory majorities.

Their crime was to have elected Labour to positions of control.

Mr John Cunningham, Labour spokesman on the so-called "Paving Bill" to prepare for the abolition of the metropolitan authorities was a constitutional outrage. It would pave the way to wholesale dislocation.

The former ministers and

five other Conservatives have signed an amendment objecting to the second reading of the Paving Bill, properly entitled the Local Government Interim Provisions Bill on Wednesday.

The amendment says that Parliament should first approve legislation for the transfer and future administration of the services conducted by the authorities which are to go.

Sir Ian, who like Mr Pym, was dismissed from office by Mrs Thatcher and like him has made full use of his freedom to dissent, said yesterday that their view was quite widely supported.

The Bill seems to have a number of defects.

Mr Cunningham said Labour would encourage the dissenting Tories to join them in the lobbies.

The challenge to the rate-capping Bill in the Lords may be more severe. The Opposition has tabled an amendment which would not deny the Bill a second reading, in defiance of today's conventions, but would add a rider so severely critical that the Government are treating it as a direct challenge.

Some unhappy Tory and crossbench peers will vote with the Opposition, but Government whips are being heavily persuasive, and are confident of winning.

The academic lobbyists, headed by 21 professors, have written to the peers to ask them to ensure that "the fundamental values of traditional local government and democracy are not damaged by the Government's proposals."

Leading article, page 9

Zola Budd can run for Britain

Zola Budd, the holder of three unofficial athletics world records, could be running for Britain at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles next August. She was granted British citizenship yesterday, having left her home in South Africa two weeks ago because her country is barred from international competition.

At 17 she is the most exciting track prospect in the world. She has recorded a time seven seconds faster than the official world record for 5,000 metres and is the leading junior over 1,500 and 3,000 metres. Most of her running is done in bare feet because she regards shoes as a physical handicap and she is uncommonly slight, at 5ft 2in and 6st 2lb.

Her size may prove her undoing in Britain where races are often physical. So far she has only run against the clock because South Africa cannot provide the high level of middle distance competition which is available in Britain.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, hastened the processing of Miss Budd's application before her eighteenth birthday next month.

Zola Budd's challenge, page 29

Poland settles war of crosses

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Poland's bitter "war of the crosses" ended yesterday with a compromise between the Government and the Catholic Church. The month-long dispute, which began with the ripping down of crucifixes from schools, was a serious irritant in the delicate relations between church and state and proved something of an embarrassment to the Jaruzelski leadership.

Priests in the Garwolin district south-east of Warsaw, said the compromise means that the students in the Stanislaw Jazaj Agricultural School will be allowed to keep a crucifix in their library and their dormitory and will also be allowed to wear crucifixes around their neck.

They will not be obliged to sign loyalty pledges and the school — closed after clashes between riot police and the students — will reopen on Monday.

The two teachers dismissed by the authorities for their support of the students will be reinstated.

The church has thus gained most of its objectives. But the crucifixes in the seven lecture halls in the school will not be replaced and the Government has made it clear that it will continue to remove crosses from schools, colleges and other State-run institutions.

It claims it is doing this to demonstrate clearly the separate status of church and state and to affirm that it is the Government which is responsible for the education of young people.

The action may have been started to appease hard-line Marxists in the Communist Party. But if so, the operation has misfired, demonstrating the strength of support for the church rather than the secular authorities.

Bishop Jan Mazur, whose diocese includes Garwolin and Mielno where the school is situated, met the students yesterday and told them: "he would continue his strict bread and water fast until the school reopened on time on Monday."

About 250 of the 600 students attended class yesterday. The others were barred because they had not signed a declaration stating their loyalty to the state and their acceptance of the rules of the school. Signing this declaration will be waived under the terms of the compromise.

Several dozen — some estimates set up to 450 — priests throughout Poland have joined Bishop Mazur in his fast to put pressure on the Government.

Miss Anna Walentynowicz, the veteran human rights campaigner, has been released from prison in Katowice and taken to the Warsaw Oncological Clinic for treatment of cancer. The case against her — for inciting public unrest — will be suspended and the trial postponed indefinitely.

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Health officials aim to vaccinate all children and stamp out measles

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Department of Health is conducting a campaign this autumn with the long-term aim of virtually eliminating measles as an infectious disease.

The United States and Czechoslovakia have almost achieved that already by determined immunization campaigns.

Drills of the campaign plan sent out for consultation say measles remains "a significant cause of serious illness in children" despite the immunization programme introduced in 1968.

Only 58 per cent of children in England and Wales are immunized by their second birthday and 10 per cent of those who catch the disease still suffer serious complications.

In five of six victims in every thousand measles produces convulsions and brain inflammation occurs in about two victims in every 10,000.

In the latter group about 10 to 15 per cent die and 25 per cent suffer permanent brain damage. On average about 20 children a year die from measles.

Measles epidemics usually run in two-year cycles, with the next due in 1985. More than 100,000 cases were notified in 1983, the last epidemic year, but only about 40 to 60 per cent of cases are thought to be reported. That suggests more than 200,000 children will be at risk in the next serious outbreak.

The campaign includes ensuring that all children have measles vaccination on entry into school if they have been missed earlier. The Health Education Council will send leaflets and posters to preschool playgroups and the National Childminding Association.

The department's background documents say the United States immunization campaign "have cut the incidence of measles by 99.7 per cent, with no cases other than imported ones reported in 22 states in 1982."

Finland and Sweden also have campaigns to eliminate measles. England and Wales had up to 800,000 cases in peak years before immunization was introduced, but in 1980 there were still 140,000 notified cases.

Accountant stole £237,000

Robert Wallace-Taylor, an accountant, stole £237,246 and was a regular visitor to the financial capitals of Europe.

Teesside Crown Court was told yesterday he even named his house after his favourite hotel in Zurich.

Jailing him for four years Mr Justice McCullough told him: "I am prepared to deal with you despite my suspicions on the basis that you don't have any money saved away in Switzerland or anywhere else."

Wallace-Taylor's papers showed he made regular trips to Switzerland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. When Fraud Squad detectives arrested him as he left an aircraft from Zurich, he has newspaper clippings showing the day's prices for international shares and gold.

Wallace-Taylor aged 64 of Beau-site, School Hill, Sinden, Sussex, handed detectives a written record of his thefts over 16 years while working as a financial accountant to Chipboard manufacturers Weyroc at Weybridge, Surrey and Hexham, Northumberland.

He also showed them that he had a £2,000 bank overdraft and denied he had any investments. He said: "I just frittered the money away."

But Mr Roger Thorn for the prosecution told the court: "The prosecution says that the money has been invested or, salted away."

Wallace-Taylor pleaded guilty to stealing £237,256 between January, 1965, and last September. He also admitted four specimen theft charges and one of forgery.

He was earning £8,000 a year when he was arrested. Mr Thorn said that the company had agreed to settle its claim against him in exchange for half the proceeds of the sale of his £72,000 house.

Scotland's best Scotland's top tourist attractions last year were the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. Each attracted more than 500,000 visitors, according to figures released yesterday.

Eggs and bacon dearer because of weather The price of a number of basic food items will rise in the shops next week because of the unseasonably cold weather, consumers were told yesterday.

The four largest sizes of egg will go up by about 3p a dozen because farmers have reduced the size of their laying stocks and about 14 million eggs fewer a week are being produced compared to this time last year.

If the weather becomes warmer the hens will be encouraged to lay more so prices could start to fall again, the British Farm Produce Council said.

Prices of cured gammon bacon joints and rashers will rise by about 2p a pound. The price of some cheaper cuts could also increase.

The cold start to spring has not encouraged a great demand for salad stuffs, and green



Medicinal visit: Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, inspecting Roussel Laboratories in Swindon yesterday. The company researches and manufactures pharmaceutical and related products

Drug stores' warning of cheap Europe imports

By Jeremy Warner and Nicholas Timmins

Health ministers are planning to change the way chemists are reimbursed for the cost of drugs they dispense, as drug wholesalers yesterday were predicting a boom in imports of cheap drugs from Europe.

The move comes after changes in the regulations covering the import of such drugs announced on Thursday. Mr Malcolm Town, managing director of Maltown, a Harrogate-based company that is a leader in "parallel" imports of cheap drugs from Europe, said the changes were "very good news for us."

He said pharmacists who have been waiting for the Government to clarify the situation will now begin to take advantage of cheaper European prices.

How long that will be possible, however, is not clear. The Department of Health and Social Security is about to start negotiations with pharmacists on a new contract. A spokesman said it was hoped that the new contract will reflect the prices paid by pharmacists for drugs.

At present chemists can dispense the cheaper European drug, charge the National Health Service for the full-price British equivalent, and pocket the difference.

Drug wholesalers issued a warning yesterday, however, that any generalized "clearance" would mean the effective abandonment of the British drug pricing system driving the big wholesalers into "parallel" imports.

Mr Peter Dodd, managing director of Unichem, Britain's biggest drug wholesaler, said he was worried that any attempt by the Government to identify which chemists were using cheap imports to reduce their reimbursement could be illegal under EEC law.

Great Train Robber spared gold case trial

Charles Wilson, a member of the gang that staged the £2m Great Train Robbery, should not face another trial for allegedly taking part in a £2m gold swindle, a judge at the Central Criminal Court ruled yesterday.

Asked if he would be celebrating the decision with champagne, Mr Wilson replied: "More likely with a glass of lemonade."

After two years of court proceedings which have cost the taxpayer an estimated £500,000, Mr Wilson, aged 51, of Cranford Way, Twickenham, south London, was told a fraud charge against him would lie on the file. "It is proper, reasonable and correct," Judge Lowry said.

The judge was told that the customs and excise, which brought the case, had considered a request by Mr Wilson to "compound" outstanding matters which would lead to the rapid disposal of the case. "It is understood the outstanding matters concern tax."

Mr Wilson went through two trials. The first, at Southwark in April last year, was aborted two months later after new evidence emerged. A new trial started at the Central Criminal Court last October.

Mr Wilson and seven others were accused of taking part in a gold coin value-added tax swindle, said to have cost taxpayers £2.4m. One of his alleged fellow conspirators was another former train robber, Roy James.

Mr James and five others were acquitted, while one was found guilty. The jury could not agree on Mr Wilson, and customs and excise was left to decide whether to proceed with another costly trial.

Mr Paul Purnell, QC, for the prosecution, said that a considerable time had gone by. In the general interest of public expense and the strain on Mr Wilson, the criminal charge should not be proceeded with after Mr Wilson's offer to compound the outstanding matters.

Mr Wilson had denied conspiring to defraud the customs and excise of tax between 1981 and 1982.

Superman group set to move abroad in films tax protest

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Superman film empire, which has spent £75m making four pictures in Britain in the past seven years, is on the verge of leading an exodus of big name film groups out of the country in protest at tax changes in last month's Budget.

Mr Pierre Spengler, co-producer of the series with the father and son team of Alexander and Ilya Salkind, confirmed yesterday that the company had told Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, of their intentions.

The company recently completed *Superman II*, the fourth of its films to be made at Pinewood, and it is about to embark on a £35m version of *Santa Claus* at the studios, which are owned by the Rank Organization.

The decision to move overseas would come into effect next year when the company had been planning new *Superman* and *Supergirl* features.

Mr Spengler said: "This is all unfortunate. We like working here and have built up strong ties with the industry. But we will be forced out if, when we go to financiers to back us, it becomes obvious that the same film could be made more cheaply abroad."

Why should they pay more money to make the same film here when they can get it more cheaply elsewhere?

Mr Spengler's letter to Mr Baker confirms the worst fears of the domestic industry about the decision in the Budget to scrap capital allowances, which have proved an incentive for large amounts of speculative film finance.

Film unions and British producers fear that other big spending international film series, like the James Bond

company's production of *Santa Claus* would go ahead unaffected by any decision to relocate studios.



Mr Alexander Salkind (left) and his son Ilya: "Why pay more to film here?"

Holiday ban on Ridgeway traffic is urged

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Countryside Commission tried yesterday to end a long dispute about the opening of one of England's most popular prehistoric trackways to motor cycles. It recommended three county councils to ban "recreational" vehicles from 40 miles of the path on some days this summer.

Although the Ridgeway is a track it is classified as a road and is sometimes crowded in the summer with ramblers and motor cyclists.

The commission's proposed ban would apply on Sundays and public holidays between the start of May and the end of October and would affect all

vehicles except those owned by farmers with land on the Ridgeway and those needed for emergencies.

The commission has faced months of pressure from environmental groups to ban all traffic from the Ridgeway, which passes through some of the most scenic and remote stretches of land in southern England.

The next move lies with Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire county councils which must decide whether to impose by-laws or hold public inquiries into the commission's plan.

Virgin airline fare 'not low enough'

By Rupert Morris

Virgin's lawyers are understood to be confident that the US Civil Aeronautics Board will raise no objection to the company's take-off, particularly since the British authorities gave the go-ahead to People Express last year.

Mr Branson has announced that his first flight will be on June 14, which is some time before the expiry of the time allowed for objections, either to the Department of Transport, which must designate Virgin as a national carrier, or to the US authorities.

No objections are expected, since British Caledonian, which had objected to the Civil Aviation Authority granting a licence to Virgin, has announced that it does not intend to appeal.

British Caledonian confirmed that it was reconsidering its plan to launch a £50 one-way ticket to New York from next spring; the company would carefully monitor the progress of Mr Branson's enterprise before deciding its next move.

Virgin reported that it had received a large number of applications, for staff and aircrew jobs.

Lighthouse keeper 'punished' by move

A dismissed lighthouse keeper's wife told an industrial tribunal in Glasgow yesterday that her husband was punished by being told to go to Cape Wrath after complaining about conditions at his lighthouse.

Mrs Helen Kelly said, facilities at Davaar lighthouse, Argyllshire, were deplorable.

Her husband, Malcolm, the assistant lighthouse keeper, was dismissed in November when he refused to go to Cape Wrath after his employers' decision to de-man Davaar because of his complaints. He claims unfair dismissal against the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Mrs Kelly said the noise of the lighthouse, directly opposite their sitting room, was unbearable. She said the water was discoloured and they suspected the lead level in the water was too high.

She also claimed furniture in the house was in a deplorable state.

Mrs Kelly denied that she and her husband caused bad feeling between themselves and other lighthouse keepers at Davaar.

She backed her husband's decision to refuse Cape Wrath. "I felt it was a punishment," she said. "He had served on a rock station at Ailsa Craig and from there he went to an island station, Davaar, where he had to work extra hours because of under-manning. Then, they proposed to send him to another rock station where he would be subject to exactly the same sort of pressure."

The tribunal will issue a written judgement.



Mr Malcolm Kelly: Rejected Cape Wrath job

Youth garrotted grandmother for video cash

A boy aged 16, brutally murdered and robbed his frail grandmother to feed his obsession for video games. Peter Dymond, was ordered by Mr Justice Pann at Exeter Crown Court to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

Dymond, now aged 17, unemployed, of Exmouth, Devon, pleaded guilty to murdering Mrs Maud Biely a widow aged 75, at her home in the town.

Mr Harold Burnett, QC, said the relationship between Mrs Biely and her grandson was a good one.

He stole £100 from her but spent it within two days. He returned to her home later in the day to steal more. He garrotted her with a poker and beat her

Song writer Jimmy Kennedy dies at 81

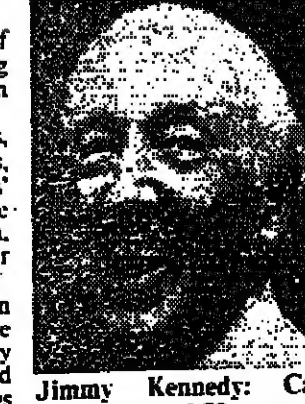
By Kenneth Gosling

Jimmy Kennedy one of Britain's most prolific song writers, died yesterday in Cheltenham. He was 81.

In a career spanning 50 years, he wrote more than 1,000 songs, including "The Teddy Bears' Picnic", "Hometown", made famous by Flanagan and Allen, "Isle of Capri" and "Harbour Lights".

Jimmy Kennedy was known chiefly for his lyrics. He wrote the enormously successful party song, "The Hokey-Cokey", and one of the great patriotic songs of the World War 4, "The Siegfried Line".

Born in Omagh, co Tyrone, he won many awards, including US honours for "Red Sails in the Sunset" and "My Prayer", "Poor Little Angelina" started the patois glide dancing craze of the 1930s.



Jimmy Kennedy: Career spanned 50 years

WEA budget cut by £500,000

The Workers Education Association launched a national campaign yesterday to fight government budget cuts.

The association provides courses for more than 170,000 men and women a year in "liberal education directed to personal development through group study and mutual understanding."

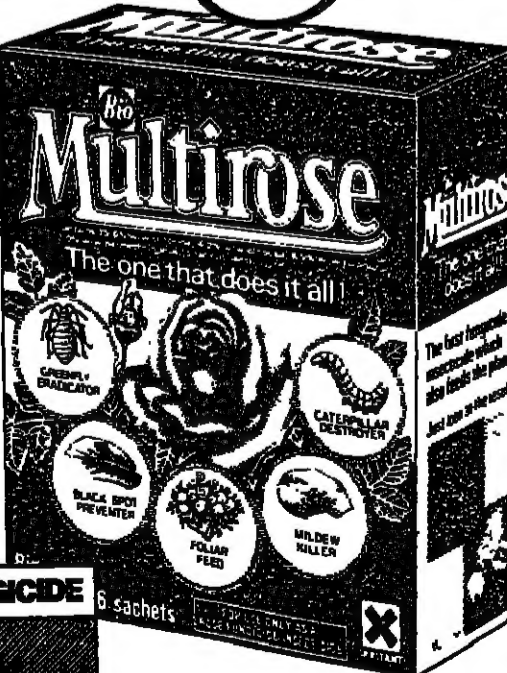
Its budget is being cut by 8.5 per cent in real terms over the next three years, which means that it will lose about £500,000 from £2.2m.

Yesterday three association vice-presidents, Mr Neil Kinlock, leader of the Labour Party, Mr Harry Greenaway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, and Mr Alan Beith, Liberal MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed, gave messages of support.

Armed robbery Three armed men robbed a PPR security van outside Bonaventure School, Forest Gate, east London, yesterday of between £50,000 and £60,000.

The one that does it all!

- Black Spot preventer
- Caterpillar destroyer
- Greenfly eradicator
- Mildew killer
- PLUS
- Foliar feed



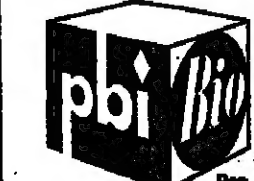
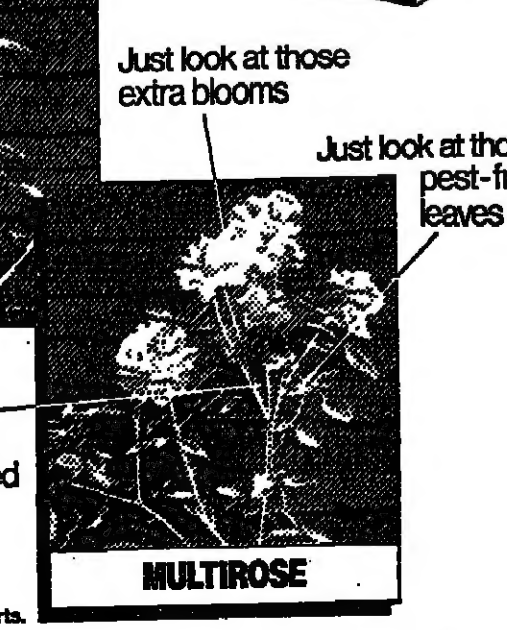
Bio Multirose is the first all-in-one for roses. Three fungicides and a powerful insecticide give the best pest and disease control around. But the breakthrough is the addition of a foliar feed, with NPK and Sulphur for healthier plants and better blooms. Don't take our word for it - listen to the experts who tried Multirose -

"I congratulate you on the development and manufacture of a first class all round rose treatment and will be sure to recommend it to my customers."

TAC Gregory, Gregory's Roses

"This is a real breakthrough in rose care. The addition of the foliar feed has been really effective - the plants are healthier, with delayed senescence."

Mark Mattock, Mattock's Roses



Pen Britannica Industries Ltd, Britannica House, Waltham Cross, Herts.



The Queen being greeted by her son on her arrival at RAF Benson with the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday.

Rudy Narayan to bow out from the Bar

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

One of the Bar's most flamboyant characters is to lay down his wig and gown to become a solicitor.

Mr Rudy Narayan, champion of black rights and bete noire of the legal establishment, says that he is "fed up" with the restrictions on a barrister.

But although he denies any shortage of work, he said "I have had enough of being held hostage by solicitors and looking over my shoulder for a brief."

He is disillusioned, too, with the financial rewards at the Bar. "What disgusts me is that a man as brilliant and good looking as myself should earn far less than solicitors of much less competence."

Mr Narayan, who was called to the Bar 16 years ago after seven years in the British Army, intends to "return to the grass roots" and set up on his own or in partnership in Brighton.

With his application accepted by the Law Society, provided he

passes examinations in conveyancing and accounts this summer, he could start work as a solicitor in December.

Last year, Mr Narayan was brought before the Bar disciplinary tribunal on seven

charges of professional misconduct, four of which were proven. He was suspended for six weeks.

The proven charges were: accusing the Director of Public Prosecutions of incompetence and dishonesty; abusing the DPP staff; calling a police superintendent a liar and trying to see a prosecution notebook.

Mr Narayan was not cowed. In a memorable and highly charged speech before the tribunal, he accused the whole legal profession, from the Attorney General down, of corruption and racism and a vendetta against him.

His advocacy won the day. The tribunal's nominal sentence is thought to reveal a sneaking admiration for his boast that nothing it could do "held any terror" for him and that he stood not before the English Bar, but "before the bar of the common people of Britain".

Mr Narayan: "Too many restrictions on a barrister."

Illegal station on air

Pirates keep the Greeks happy

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

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Prince flies in to greet Queen

Prince Edward surprised the Queen by putting on a flying display of his own yesterday when she visited the Queen's Flight headquarters in Oxfordshire.

The Prince flew in at the controls of an RAF Bulldog trainer half an hour before the royal Andover arrived.

It was the climax of his first week of flying training at RAF Abingdon less than 10 miles from the Queen's Flight at RAF Benson. "What a nice surprise," the Queen said.

After Prince Edward accompanied the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a tour of the Queen's Flight hangar, the Queen watched her youngest son, aged 20, take off again.

"During the actual take-off, as on the landing earlier, the controls would have been taken by the flying instructor sitting alongside him," a RAF spokesman said. "But once in the air he would have been flying himself, as he will have been doing all week."

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Tikhonov future in doubt as speculation grows over Soviet premiership

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There are conflicting signals over the future of Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the 78-year-old Soviet Prime Minister, as the crucial Central Committee and Supreme Soviet sessions approach.

Mr Konstantin Chernenko faces his first top level Party and Government meetings as leader next week, with organizational and personnel matters on the Agenda. The new Supreme Soviet convenes on Wednesday for the first time, after national elections last month.

It will affirm policy decisions taken at a Central Committee plenum expected to take place on Monday and Tuesday although no announcement has been made. Plenums normally last for two days.

Mr Chernenko is widely expected to become President as well as party leader at the Supreme Soviet. But there is speculation over the premiership, the third important post in the collective leadership.

Mr Tikhonov will be 79 next month and although he appeared fit at Mr Yuri Andropov's funeral he failed to attend a Kremlin meeting on agriculture last week. He re-appeared on Tuesday at an international metalworking exhibition in Moscow, accompanied by Mr Geidar Aliyev, aged 60, who was pointedly given his full title as Politburo member and first Deputy Prime Minister by the Press.

Informed sources said Mr Chernenko was a compromise choice as Party leader on February 13 and might not be able to make personnel changes so soon after his election. The



Mr Tikhonov: Failed to attend Kremlin meeting

question of the premiership was none-the-less "in the air."

If Mr Tikhonov did step down candidates for his job include Mr Aliyev and Mr Vitaly Voronikov, the 57-year-old Russian Federation Premier, who was a close ally of Mr Andropov.

Observers believe Mr Chernenko will preserve the factional balance on the Politburo itself rather than trying to promote his supporters. The key ideology portfolio in the Secretariat remains vacant, but Mr Chernenko is against giving the post to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr Andropov's 52-year-old protégé, since it can be a stepping stone to the top. Both Mr Andropov and Mr Chernenko held the post.

Mr Tikhonov loyally served both Mr Leonid Brezhnev and Mr Andropov as Prime Minister, but was closer to leading Brezhnevites, including Mr Chernenko, whom he proposed for the leadership in February.

The younger Andropov protégés, however, would prefer someone more in tune with the Andropov economic experiments, which are being kept alive by Mr Gorbachev. He is the most senior party secretary after Mr Chernenko and the Kremlin's unofficial second-in-command.

Mr Aliyev featured prominently at last week's Politburo meetings with Colonel Mengistu, the Ethiopian leader, alongside Mr Andrei Gromyko, aged 74, who is also a Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister.

Mr Gromyko is expected to make a major statement on East-West relations at next week's meetings in response to remarks this week by President Reagan.

On Thursday Moscow said Mr Reagan's call for a ban on chemical weapons was a propaganda trick designed to camouflage America's own build-up of chemical arms. On Wednesday Mr Chernenko called for the reactivation of détente.

But a headline comment in Pravda shortly afterwards accused Washington of spreading false rumours about secret Soviet-American consultations.

Sources said that if Mr Chernenko did become President next week he would be better able to meet foreign leaders. It was not necessarily a sign of his power since it now seemed to be an assumption of Soviet politics that the party leadership and the presidency went hand in hand.

Mr Chernenko is already chairman of the Supreme Defence Council, an appointment mentioned in passing by the Chief of Staff, Marshal Ogarkov, recently, but not yet officially announced.

Spain angry at France over Basque programme

Madrid - Spain handed a note of protest to France for what it called the "one-sided" treatment of the Basque problem and defence of terrorism in a programme on French television (Richard Wigg writes).

A member of ETA's military wing and ETA supporters were interviewed but there was no spokesman for Madrid. The protest is one more expression of the strained relations between the two countries.

De Lorean jury choice near

Los Angeles (Reuters) - After 15 days of intensive questioning, the first phase of jury selection for the trial of John De Lorean on drug charges ended with a list of 60 prospective jurors.

The 60 will be questioned again before a final panel of 12 jurors and four alternates is chosen for the trial of Mr De Lorean, the carmaker who is accused of conspiring to import 220lb of cocaine worth \$34m (£17m).

Asylum refused

Stockholm - Sergeant Antonio Glass, of the US Army, born in the Dominican Republic, has been refused political asylum in Sweden. He defected first to East Germany where he claims to have given the authorities details of CIA activities.

Korean offer

Tokyo (Reuters) North Korea said it was ready to meet South Korean sports officials for preliminary discussions on sending a joint team to the Los Angeles Olympics. Four officials would go to the border village of Panmunjom on Monday to discuss an agenda.

Envoy stays

Jakarta - In an apparent reversal of policy, Papua New Guinea has agreed that Indonesia's defence attaché in Port Moresby should not be recalled until the two countries can discuss the alleged incursion of Indonesian fighters into Papua New Guinea air space.

Kenya find

A five million year-old fragment of a lower jaw, believed to be the oldest human fossil yet known, has been found at Tabarin, near Lake Baringo, in northern Kenya by a joint expedition from the National Museum of Kenya and Harvard University.

Bribes charge

Vienna - Thirteen Hungarians working for state-run companies have been charged with accepting bribes totalling £250,000 from foreign firms.

Happier cows

Stockholm - Swedish cows are being fitted with plastic discs impregnated with insecticide to keep their heads free from flies in the summer. Scientists say they give a higher milk yield as a result.

Kurds give Iraq one last chance

By Edward Mortimer

Negotiations are to resume soon in Baghdad for what may be a decisive round between the Iraqi Government and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the main groups fighting for Kurdish autonomy in Northern Iraq.

The Patriotic Union's leadership, hitherto backed by Syria, has close links with Iraq's Kurdish groups which are fighting Ayatollah Khomeini's regime and are therefore backed by Baghdad.

Last year, the Patriotic Union was persuaded by these groups to open talks with the Iraqi Government, Baghdad, hard pressed in the war with Iran and anxious to avoid fighting on two fronts, was willing to offer concessions.

A preliminary agreement was reached last December after a secret visit to Baghdad by Mr Jalal Talabani, the Patriotic Union leader, and was to have been announced on January 1.

But, to the Kurds' surprise, no announcement was made. The Iraqi regime appeared to be back-peddling, and the Kurds attributed this to increased Iraqi self-confidence after the visit to Baghdad of Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special envoy.

The Patriotic Union broke off the talks last month after Iraq executed a number of young Kurds who had been arrested for draft-dodging. However, according to Patriotic Union sources, the Government then hastily sent two "high-level officials" to the Kurds' mountain headquarters to persuade them to resume the talks.

Although not convinced, the Patriotic Union agreed to send a delegation to Baghdad, setting a time limit to settle outstanding issues. It regards these talks as the final and decisive round.

Meanwhile, Iranian Kurds believe Tehran is about to begin a series of offensives against them.

UK beats trade path to Russia

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Britain is hoping that forthcoming visits to Moscow by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, will lead to a marked upturn in Anglo-Soviet trade.

Diplomats said yesterday that this in turn could consolidate the improvement in political relations which followed Mrs Margaret Thatcher's talks in Moscow at President Andropov's funeral in February and the visit to London last month by Mr Georgy Kornienko, the Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister.

The diplomats were speaking on the eve of British Technical Week in Moscow, a big effort to boost British technology in Russia.

Thirty leading British companies are taking part, including ICI, BP, Shell, John Brown, Babcock Engineering and Boots, as well as specialised companies such as Quest Automation and Flexibox.



Bandleader ill Xavier Cugat, Hollywood's King of Rumba, aged 84, who is in a critical condition in Barcelona. He was once married to Rita Hayworth.

Dealing in the murky world of arms

Tehran turns to unlikely allies

By David Cross

Ayatollah Khomeini's regime is again stepping up its efforts to obtain increasingly scarce supplies of arms for its creating war machine's protracted struggle with Iraq.

Western analysts trying to sift through the propaganda and rumours to discover which markets are still open to Tehran, are convinced that it is now heavily dependent on the private, mostly illegal market. It is particularly the case with much-needed spare parts for its tanks and aircraft, and electronic equipment for its war remains of the sophisticated armaments originally supplied by the Shah's Western allies.

In a rare admission of the problem posed by its inability to purchase equipment directly from the United States or most Western governments, a senior Iranian official said recently that his country was having to pay middlemen three times the normal price for most weapons on the open market. This was making a large dent in the \$10bn (£6.6bn) earmarked each year for the war.

Outside the free market, the most important official suppliers of arms to the Iranian regime are in the communist camp. North Korea, which supplied 40 per cent of Iran's arms imports in 1982, worth some \$800m, is probably still the largest.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Tehran took delivery from Pyongyang of up to 150 T-62 Soviet tanks during the past two years.

There have also been persistent reports that North Korea is acting as a surrogate supplier for large quantities of Chinese arms. These were reinforced this week when the Washington Post disclosed details of a \$1,300m (£890m) three-year deal involving 16 fighter aircraft, T-59 tanks, 130mm artillery and light arms. SIPRI has received unconfirmed reports that 10 of the T-62s, based

on a Soviet MiG design, have been delivered under the Shah.

Peking, which is also a regular supplier of arms to Iraq, needs foreign-exchange earnings for its domestic modernization programme and to secure an influential role in the Gulf when the war finally ends.

In the convoluted world of arms traffic, South Korea has also considered it worthwhile to help Ayatollah Khomeini. According to SIPRI, American-made air-to-air missiles for F-4 Phantoms, originally supplied by Washington to the Shah, have found their way to Tehran.

Other big pro-communist suppliers include Syria and Libya.

In the West, large arms suppliers such as the United States, Britain and France have officially followed a policy of neutrality in the Gulf War in the fear that any big escalation could block oil supplies. The few vital weapon systems which have got through were the tail-

Arms resupply and other support to Iran 1980-83 (sometimes without Government sanction or knowledge)			
Major weapons before war	Major weapons during war	Other support before war	Other support during war
United States	yes	yes	yes
Soviet Union	yes	yes	yes
China	yes	yes	yes
France	yes	yes	yes
Greece	yes	yes	yes
Italy	yes	yes	yes
Britain	yes	yes	yes
East Germany	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	yes	yes	yes
Iran	yes	yes	yes
Syria	yes	yes	yes
South Yemen	yes	yes	yes
North Korea	yes	yes	yes
South Korea	yes	yes	yes
Taiwan	yes	yes	yes
Vietnam	yes	yes	yes
Algeria	yes	yes	yes
Libya	yes	yes	yes
South Africa	yes	yes	yes
Argentina	yes	yes	yes
Brazil	yes	yes	yes

Not officially sanctioned: private dealers and individual companies; often via Israel.
Via Libya, North Korea, Syria and Warsaw Pact countries.
Last three of 12 Kaman-class fast attack craft ordered 1974.
Small arms, ammunition or spares.
US-made air-to-air missiles for F-4 Phantom fighters.
Training, advisers or troops.
Armoured vehicles via Libya.
Source: World Armaments and Disarmament, SIPRI Yearbook, 1984 (to be published June 21).

COMMONS

A Bill to tighten the law on the abduction of children from the United Kingdom completed its passage through the Commons.

Sponsored by Mr Timothy Wood (Stevenson, C) the Child Abduction Bill replaces the offence of child stealing contained in the offences against the Person Act 1861 with two new offences, one to deal with child abducted by a parent or other person connected with the child and the other to cover cases of abduction by people unconnected with the child. Penalties under the Bill range up to imprisonment for up to seven years.

During the report stage, amendments, moved by Mr Wood, were agreed to extending the groups of children to be covered by the Bill to include those in care, those subject to place of safety orders, and those who had reached certain stages in custodial and adoption proceedings.

He said that these were important categories, the largest being children in care - children for whom parental rights were vested in local authorities or voluntary organisations. It was estimated that 10,000 children of 12 years and less were boarded out by local authorities.

Mr Nicholas Lyell (Mid-Bedfordshire, C) said that in cases which might be described as "lugs of love" people were moved to do things which, on careful reflection, they would realize were foolish and could be damaging to the child they purported to love.

One thing was to buy tickets for the child and themselves and get on boat or aircraft and go abroad. It would be a pity if the Bill were to be enacted with these children at risk left out.

Mr David Mettler, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that nothing would prevent a determined ruthless parent taking a child out of lawful custody of a parent

domiciled in Britain and going overseas, or in the case a British parent going and working abroad for the sole purpose of taking a child abroad, so destroying the hopes and aspirations of those who properly had control of the child.

If parents failed to retain care and control over their children and the local authority had an order taking the children into care, it could not be acceptable for a parent or anyone else to interfere with what the local authority was doing. Such children were entitled to the protection of the Bill.

Mr Wood said it was right that a person should not be allowed to remove a child from lawful and legitimate control and leave the country thereby destroying any possible legal redress within the civil law of this country.

Any dispute should be resolved within this country. The situation would be that a person would be allowed to take a child abroad, so destroying the hopes and aspirations of those who properly had control of the child.

The amendments were agreed to.

Mr Wood moved a further amendment that a person would not commit an offence under the section by doing anything without the consent of another person whose consent was required, if he believed the other person had consented.

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It actually comes from a secret address in the more grimy quarters of north London where the capital's expatriate Greek community has suddenly discovered the joys of local - illegal - radio.

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Democratic trio wheel and deal for the Pittsburgh steel vote

From Christopher Thomas, Pittsburgh

The Rev Jesse Jackson slept on a water bed in a poor house in a depressed street in Pittsburgh the other night. It was the Wargo family home. They are penniless, white and looking for work, like tens of thousands of people in this steel town.

Senator Gary Hart was at the McKeesport Steel Castings Company, looking animatedly at a pile of mouldings for steel valves. Like scores of smoke-stack firms in Pittsburgh, the company is barely viable.

Mr Walter Mondale was standing in the rain and telling people that he favoured government loan guarantees for the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Company. Like his two rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, he knows that steel is what you talk about when you come to Pittsburgh.

So the campaign trail has moved to Pennsylvania, which will send 195 delegates to the national convention in San Francisco in July. It is the third highest state delegation, behind California and New York. The Philadelphia primary on Tuesday is critical for Senator Hart, who was badly wounded by his defeat in New York this week. On present indications, Pennsylvania will do what New York did - give Mr Mondale a victory, give Mr Jackson the black vote, and leave Mr Hart a deeply worried man.

A television debate between the three contenders, broadcast nationally from Pittsburgh on Thursday night, was a seemingly other affair compared with their previous encounter. They talked a lot about steel and car-making.

The Jackson phenomenon looks destined to be reinforced on Tuesday. His performance in the nomination race has far exceeded the most optimistic expectations of his campaign organizers. The most powerful black man in Philadelphia, Mayor Wilson Goode, is backing Mr Mondale but hosts of other prominent blacks are behind Mr Jackson.

Mr Jackson's campaign in Pennsylvania is being conducted almost exclusively in black neighbourhoods - a tactic which worked handily in New York. His campaign managers are confident that in Philadelphia he will outstrip both his rivals. The state offers rich pickings for him - few states have a higher percentage of black voters.

As happened in New York, the signs are that there will be a record turnout of black voters - all but a handful of them voting for the Baptist preacher.

There is a strange tendency among registered Democrats in

Pennsylvania to vote Republican in the general and other elections. As a result, the governor and both senators are Republican, although there are a million more registered Democrats in the state than Republicans. It is not a state on which any aspiring Democratic President can rely.

Another peculiarity is the extent of blue-collar support for the Republicans, even among the unemployed. The jobless rate is 11 per cent and rising. Yet, according to soundings carried out by both parties, President Reagan retains substantial working-class support.

As a Mid-Westerner, Mr Mondale is well established in Pennsylvania. The trade unions are a powerful ally. Mr Hart has been careful to court the state's high percentage of elderly voters - old people like his style. Mr Jackson is continuing to beat the civil rights drum.

Staying at a poor white family's home was a gesture for Mr Jackson's small but loyal band of white liberal backers. It also saved his shoe-string campaign the cost of a hotel. While he and his wife, Jacqueline, were turning in for the night in Custer Street - the Wargos were relegated to the sofa downstairs - Mr Hart has counted the proceeds of a £100 (£65) a head fundraising dinner at Hilton and Mr Mondale was travelling in his private jet.

Nixon refuses to say sorry

New York (Reuter, AP) - Former President Nixon, in television interviews to be shown on Sunday, said he should have destroyed the White House tapes. He described the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate Hotel as so clumsily handled that it might have been "deliberately botched".

The attempted cover-up "was stupidity at its very highest" - but Mr Nixon said he would not apologize to the American people.

He was interviewed for 38 hours last year by Mr Frank Gannon, a former White House aide who helped him write his books. Asked why, during the two-year ordeal, he never went on television and said he had made a mistake and was sorry, Mr Nixon said:

"There's no way that you could apologize that is more eloquent, more decisive, more finite, or to say that you are sorry which would exceed resigning the Presidency of the United States. That said it all - And I don't intend to say any more."

Mr Nixon said that his wife, Pat, suffered a stroke while reading *The Final Days* by the Washington Post reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who broke many of the Watergate stories. "I have nothing but contempt for them," he said.



Man and nemesis: Former President Nixon, Mr Bernstein (top) and Mr Woodward, for whom he has 'nothing but contempt'.

The former President denied that he ordered a cover-up of the scandal, noting that "If I had thought (the White House tapes) revealed criminal activities, I would have been out of my mind not to destroy them."

While there was no excuse for the break-in, Mr Nixon said, he was occupied on important foreign policy issues and let others run his reelection campaign. "That was a mistake. I should have watched it. If I had been watching it, believe me, we wouldn't have ever bugged that."

Asked why he did not destroy the tapes, which caused him to resign to avoid impeachment, Mr Nixon said: "I must have had several thousand letters on that since leaving office. Stupid, (the tapes) should have been burned."

Army says subversives plotted to kill Aquino

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Military intelligence agents knew seven months in advance of plots among "subversive groups" to kill the Philippine opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, and at no time suspected plotters within the military or Government, the country's top military official said yesterday.

The Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver, testifying before a Commission of Inquiry into Mr Aquino's murder last August, admitted under cross-examination that first intelligence reports were "hazy" and based on coffee-shop talk.

The information about the plots to kill Senator Aquino was that some persons overheard them in restaurants and that is why they were 'hazy', the Commission's special prosecutor, Mr Andres Marvasa, said.

General Ver said the field reports from agents who were able to penetrate subversive organizations suggested that communist plotters were planning Mr Aquino's murder to implicate the Government.

He also said Mr Aquino told him of a conversation with Mrs Imelda Marcos in New York last May during which she is said to have warned him that his life would be in danger if he returned home because there were "friends loyal to the Government who cannot be controlled".

Palme fails to salt the dragons' tails

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden's Socialist Prime Minister Mr Olof Palme, was criticized by opposition leaders yesterday for failing to lodge a strong enough protest concerning Russian submarine violations of Swedish waters in talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, earlier this year.

Details of the talks on January 16 during the opening of the Stockholm Peace Conference have been leaked to both Sweden's national daily newspapers, *Dagens Nyheter* and *Svenska Dagbladet*, while the Prime Minister is paying a visit to the United States.

Mr Palme has bitterly condemned similar leaks in the past and is likely to launch his own investigation into the matter next week when he returns from New York.

According to the transcript of the talks now circulating among Swedish journalists Mr Palme told Mr Gromyko: "With reference to the reasons or difficulties in our relations, namely these submarine affairs, I would like to say the following: the situation as we see it now is that there are signs of alien activity around our coasts."

Mr Gromyko then asked ironically: "What are these dragons that you Sedes see in the Baltic?"

Mr Palme, who had earlier said that Sweden desired "good, correct and friendly" relations with the Soviet Union, then pointed out that the latest violations had not been blamed on any particular nation, the subject was then dropped.

The Conservative leader Mr Ulf Adelsohn, said it was remarkable that Mr Palme had



Mr Palme: Seeking good relations

not raised with the Soviet Foreign Minister the 1982 submarine incident off the Musko naval base on the east coast and the subsequent protest to the Soviet Union last year.

Instead of talking about basic problems in relations with the Soviet Union, has Palme preferred simply to accept Soviet assurances that they respect our neutrality, said Mr Adelsohn, who went on to criticize official Swedish Government visits that have been arranged.

The Liberal spokesman, Mr Jan-Eric Wikstrom, said: "It is important that Sweden should make clear its point of view even if the Soviet Union disapproves of it."

Meanwhile General Lennart Ljung, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, has admitted the failure of the latest hunt for submarines off the Karlskrona naval base in south of Sweden.

In Karlskrona divers continued a search of the seabed for possible traces left by a submarine but all controls have now been lifted on travel

Maazel resigns as director of Vienna Opera

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Lorin Maazel, the controversial director of the Vienna State Opera, resigned his post in Vienna yesterday. Despite hostility among the Viennese, especially the press, to his administration of the Opera House, he had given assurances that he would see his contract through to 1986.

But in a letter yesterday to the minister responsible for the arts, Herr Helmut Zilk, he said he would be unable to conduct the 120 performances.

Herr Maazel's decision follows the news earlier this week that Claudio Abbado would be the State Opera's musical director from 1987.

QE2 suffers two bumps in four days

By Richard Dowden

The QE2 has suffered two bumps in four days, a spokesman for the ship's owners, Cunard, has confirmed.

The first occurred when she berthed at Piraeus, in Greece, last Saturday night, damaging her bow beneath the waterline.

The second occurred on Wednesday morning when she made an unscheduled stop at Gibraltar damaging the bulbous bow when docking. The damage in both incidents is said to be not serious and the ship will be arriving on schedule at Southampton tomorrow morning after completing a three-month world tour with 1,200 passengers on board.

East Germany agrees to let embassy refugees go

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has talks here yesterday with Herr Günter Mittag, a senior member of the East German Politburo, as 35 East Germans who had sought asylum in the West German embassy in Prague five weeks ago left the building to return home, with a promise they will be allowed to emigrate to West Germany.

Another three East Germans in the West German diplomatic mission in East Berlin will also be allowed to leave. The East German Government made clear, however, that this was the last time it would agree to let anyone emigrate who went into a western embassy.

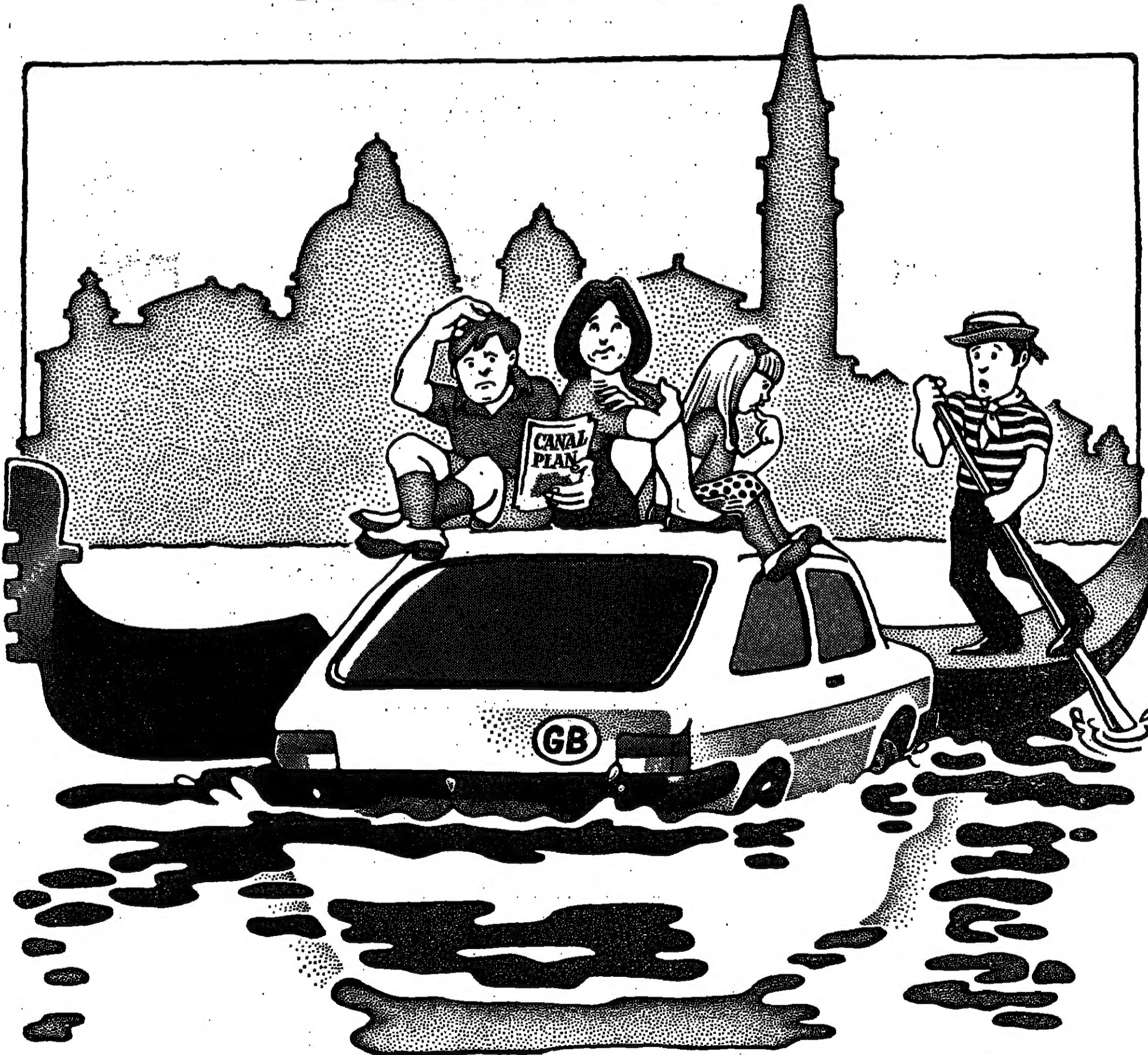
Herr Peter Boenisch, the Bonn Government's spokesman, said the talks had focused on the trade links between the two countries and their joint efforts

to cut environmental pollution. They also discussed the visit to West Germany this autumn by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader.

Herr Mittag, who has responsibility for economics and has been visiting the Hanover Fair, shared the Chancellor's satisfaction with the growth of inter-German trade, which last year rose by 8 per cent to a record of more than DM15bn (£4bn). Both leaders said trade was an important element in promoting East-West stability.

On the environment, which Herr Kohl had made a top priority for his Government, they agreed to see what steps they could take together soon to reduce pollution. Bonn is especially eager to cut airborne pollutants from the East which contribute to acid rain

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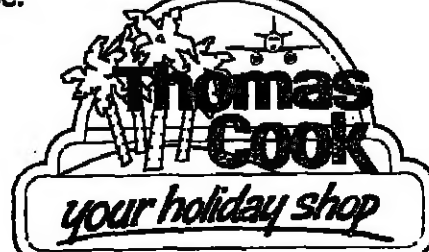
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Legal system in South Africa denounced for its grave defects

From Michael Horanby, Johannesburg

Grave deficiencies in South Africa's legal system, which cause it to be held in contempt by many blacks, have been exposed and denounced by a Government-appointed Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Gustav Hoexter. It tabled its fifth and final report this week before Parliament in Cape Town.

Mr David Dalling, speaking for the liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP), the official opposition, hailed the report as a public crucifixion of (Government) complacency, indifference, insensitivity, inefficiency, bureaucracy, incompetence, indolence, racial prejudice and bluster.

The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetzee, rejected angrily what he called the PFP's "political and unfounded" use of the report to belabour the Government. But he agreed to make it the subject of a special debate in Parliament.

Outside Parliament the report was widely welcomed in liberal circles.

The commission was set up in November 1979, to inquire into the structure and the functioning of the courts. But in its final report it has gone well beyond its terms of reference to denounce the gross overcrowding of South Africa's prisons which, it said, were packed with large numbers of people, overwhelmingly black, who should not be in custody at all.

In particular, the Commission draws attention to the "hordes of blacks who land in prison as a result of influx control. Judged by civilized standards, these people are not real malefactors. They are the needy victims of a social system that controls the influx of people from the rural to the urban areas by penal sanctions. The reason for this untenable influx is poverty."

The Commission was referring to those blacks who violate the so-called pass laws which rigorously impoverished tribal reserves (about 14 per cent of the total land area).

Pass law offenders are prosecuted in special Com-

missioners' Courts which are separate from the rest of the judicial system.

The Hoexter Commission recommends that these courts should be abolished, and that, with the exception of courts for chiefs and headmen, there should in future be the same courts for blacks and whites.

The prosecution of inhabitants of the same country in separate courts purely on grounds of race is "unnecessary, humiliating and repugnant", it says.

It says that the cramming of prisons with technical pass-law offenders has bred in many blacks "contempt for the administration of justice in general and the criminal courts in particular". It has also meant that "the serving of a prison sentence is no longer regarded as a stigma by many black inhabitants of the country".

The Commission also highlights the high proportion of prisoners awaiting trial and says that persons charged with trivial offences have to spend up to 40 days in prison before trial.

It mentions one case in which two children under school age spent three years in prison because of a bureaucratic dispute over their racial classification.

In a series of other recommendations and criticisms, the report proposes that magistrates should no longer be employees of the state. It cites evidence that security trials tend only to be assigned to certain judges deemed likely to bring in a verdict desired by the Government, and says that in future judges should not be appointed by the Cabinet alone.

The report notes that South Africa has "one of the biggest prison populations in the world" - about 100,000 at any given time - and that as a result it "frequently happens that 20 or 30 vicious thugs have to spend the night together in one cell".

This, it says, breeds gangsterism and callous and gruesome murders of defenceless cell mates.

Bomb wrecks Transkei consulate offices

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

A bomb destroyed offices belonging to the Transkei consulate in the black area of Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State, yesterday. No one was injured.

The explosion came a day after the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported it had received a telephone call from a man in Lesotho claiming responsibility for Tuesday's car bomb in Durban on behalf of the underground African National Congress (ANC) and threatening more attacks.

ANC headquarters in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, has not yet said that its guerrillas planted the Durban bomb, which killed three people - two Indians and a white - and injured more than 20 others. Mr Louis le Grange, the South African Minister for Law and Order, has said, however, that he is in no doubt

that the organization was responsible.

Transkei is one of four "independent" tribal homelands, but it is not recognized by the outside world and is regarded by black militants as an integral prop of the apartheid system. Last August, offices belonging to Ciskei, another homeland, were bombed.

There have been seven bomb explosions in the Bloemfontein area in the past 18 months. The city is about 70 miles from the frontier with Lesotho, an internationally recognized black state.

Observers have been expecting the ANC to launch a wave of bomb attacks to show that it has not been rendered ineffective by the Nkomati accord, under which Mozambique agreed to stop its territory being used by the guerrillas as a launching pad.

EEC and US square up again

From Ian Murray, Knokke, Belgium

The EEC means to block any further increases in the huge quantities of animal feed which have been pouring in from America in recent years. It is a highly controversial move which is bound to bring charges of protectionism from the United States.

The Community's decision was made public here yesterday by M Claude Vian, director-general of the Commission's agriculture section. It means that the Community wants to limit the amount of feed imports to 2.9 million tonnes a year.

Negotiations opened yesterday before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva and the Community will have to pay compensation to the United States if there is to be a deal.

M Vian gave the news in a speech to a conference in Knokke looking at the strained state of relations between the United States and the Community.

There was an immediate response from Mr Richard Lyng, the American Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. He viewed such proposals with "disappointment and discouragement". He added: "These types of actions can lead to counter-actions and they in turn lead to trade wars". But Herr Wilhelm Harferkamp, the External Affairs Commissioner, said: "I do not see any danger of trade war ahead of us".

Lord Soames, one of Britain's first commissioners, felt that the United States would be "fairly fed up" with European progress.

Shuttle soars into orbit to service a satellite



High-fliers (from left): Mission specialist Terry Hart, pilot Dick Scobee, Captain Robert Crippen, Dr George Nelson and mission specialist James van Hoften

Another chapter in space history

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The space shuttle Challenger lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday at the start of another chapter in space history. A key part of the six-day mission is the first space service call, the retrieving and repair of a disabled satellite.

On Sunday, 300 miles above the Earth, Dr George Nelson, one of the five astronauts, will leave the shuttle and steer himself across 300ft of space

with the aid of a jet-propulsion backpack.

He will grasp the wobbling 5,000lb Solar Max satellite and wreathe it on to a stable course so that Challenger can manoeuvre closer and retrieve it with its robot arm.

The satellite, launched four years ago, will be hauled into the shuttle's cargo bay for repair. A failed electronics system will be removed and a new one inserted. If all goes

well, the satellite will be put back into orbit to continue its study of the Sun. Should the repair be unsuccessful, the satellite will be shipped back to Earth.

This is the eleventh shuttle mission, the fourth flown by Challenger, since the programme started in April, 1981. The commander is Captain Robert Crippen, a space veteran who flew the first shuttle



Lift-off: Challenger on its most challenging mission

Zimbabwe bishops voice grave concern

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic Bishops yesterday expressed "very grave concern" over reports from Matabeleland. But a statement issued after their annual plenary session refrained from condemning army operations in the troubled province.

The Bishops said they would continue to consult the Government "with a view to trying to alleviate suffering and safeguard human rights".

The statement, signed by Mr Tobias Chiginya, president of the conference, follows allegations in a sermon last weekend by a priest, Father Jon Gough, that the army was involved in an attempt to wipe out the minority Ndebele tribe.

Some bishops were known to have been angered by Father Gough's sermon. They believe the interests of congregations in Matabeleland would be best served by private discussions with the Government.

The British High Com-

Britain to return historic house

From David Watts, Kuala Lumpur

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has agreed to return Carcosa, the residence of the British High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, to Malaysia.

Carcosa, a fine colonial house on a promontory with commanding views over the centre of the Malaysian capital, was a gift to Britain by the Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, a year before the country became independent in August, 1957.

The house was "to show in some permanent form an appreciation of the long and friendly association we have had with the British people".

A senior figure in the Malaysian Government said Mrs Thatcher offered to return Carcosa to Malaysia during a visit to London by the Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, in March last year.

It is understood that the Malaysians are to pay a considerable sum in compensation for the return of the house and the valuable land, and to provide an alternative site.

The British High Com-

mission declines to discuss Carcosa.

Malaysian-British relations are now back on a steady footing, having gone through a period of extreme sensitivity after Dr Mahathir assumed power.

The return of Carcosa must be seen as the latest element of a series of moves aimed at taking some of the hate out of the inevitable love-hate relationship between the colonial power and its former colony. Its return has long been one of Dr Mahathir's aims.

But the residence's return will not find unanimous approval in either London or Kuala Lumpur. To most Malays it is in bad taste to seek the return of a gift.

It will see the end of an era for another of the great landmarks of British colonial history, and surely one of the most exotic and romantic British buildings in South-East Asia, with its views over the residence of the Malaysian Prime Minister and the Parliament, and the serried, misty ranks of jungle-clad mountains in the distance.

Tunku Abdul Rahman insisted that Carcosa was not a

symbol of the past relationship of "colonial masters and servants", but of a new one based on equality. To his later-day successor only the return of the house with its wooded grounds could finally signify that equality.

Carcosa was the creation of Sir Frank Swettenham, who became the first Resident General of the Federated Malay States in 1896.

It was then the residence of the most senior British civil servant in Kuala Lumpur until the arrival of the Japanese.

Sir Frank Swettenham said the rather mystical name Carcosa came from a book by Robert W. Chambers, *The King in Yellow*, which he was reading as the house was finished.

Sir Frank was taken with this verse:

Along the shore the cold waves break, the twin suns sink beneath the wave, the shadows lengthen in Carcosa.

Strange is the night where black stars rise, and twin moons circle through the skies, but stranger still is lost Carcosa.

Build-up in the Bekaa

Beirut (Reuters) - Israel and Syria have been building up their forces along the frontlines in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon for the past three days, a senior official at the Lebanese Defence Ministry said yesterday.

Commenting on Beirut press reports of a build-up, he said reinforcements had been under way in the western sector of the valley since Tuesday, and the Ministry had received reports of "limited exchanges" of fire since Wednesday with a number of casualties on both sides.

The troop movements were continuing, the official added. He declined to indicate their extent or to comment on their possible significance. Political observers noted that previous troop build-ups in the area had not brought clashes between the two armies.

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv declined to comment on the reports. There was also no word from the Syrian Army.

The Government is to issue a special Lebanon "pass" on the 1962 General Service Medal for British forces who served with the international peacekeeping contingent.

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Grenada criticism rejected by Howe

By Rodney Cowton

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday rejected criticism of his handling of the Grenada crisis last October.

A report by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, published on Thursday, criticized the Government's "leisurely" handling of events leading up to the American invasion of the Caribbean island on October 25.

The Government's response to the committee's report will be published in May, but yesterday Sir Geoffrey said: "I do not accept criticisms of our handling of this subject in the days leading up to the invasion."

It seems to have been overlooked that much of the report is appreciative of the difficulties facing the Government in Grenada and of our success in minimizing the damage which the episode did to relations within the Commonwealth, especially between Caribbean countries, and with the United States.

It is quite clear that Sir Geoffrey has been angered by the charge of lethargy. In Whitehall it was pointed out that during the weekend leading up to the Tuesday invasion Sir Geoffrey was attending a meeting in Athens and the Prime Minister was at Chequers.

Nevertheless, over that weekend 10 telegrams were relayed to them on Grenada, and a similar number passed between London and Washington. Between October 19 and 24 there were about 15 telegrams.

Washington keeps a low profile

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Reagan Administration is anxious to bury the controversy arising from its failure to consult the British Government fully just before its military intervention in Grenada last October.

Officials have carefully avoided public comment on the British parliamentary committee report which said that the US deliberately withheld information from Britain about the invasion.

At the time Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other members of the British Government complained about the lack of consultations between Washington and London about the American military intervention in a Commonwealth country.

But American officials have said privately that the British were generally aware of what was being planned four days before the invasion.

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Turkey seeks party ban

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

The prosecutor's office applied yesterday to the Turkish Constitutional Court for the closure of the conservative Right Way Party on the grounds that it was an illegal continuation of banned former parties.

The Right Way Party, excluded from last November's general elections by the former military regime, had been allowed to enter last month's local polls from which it emerged as the third biggest party with roughly 13.5 per cent of the votes.

The social democratic Sodep,

which was likewise barred from the Parliament, had emerged second with 23.3 per cent, behind the ruling Motherland Party with 41.5 per cent.

Following the poll, both "extra-parliamentary" parties claimed to be the true opposition.

The prosecutor's application against the Right Way Party was based on campaign speeches by its leaders, paid advertisements printed in newspapers and clauses in the party programme

which were likewise barred from the Parliament, had emerged second with 23.3 per cent, behind the ruling Motherland Party with 41.5 per cent.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Home of the brave

Poppie Nongena
Riverside

One characteristic of South African theatre at its best is that it makes you feel more proud of belonging to the human race than ashamed of the injustices that it inflicts on itself.

Here, for instance, is the true story of a woman whose family undergoes slow strangulation by the Pass Laws, but the emotions it excites are sympathy and admiration for the heroine, rather than hatred for her administrative tormentors.

Adapted from Elsa Joubert's book, the play consists of a point-of-view journey interrupted by brief phases of peace and harmony. Poppie and her family first appear in their coastal home town, blissfully removed from the passbook areas; but no sooner has she married than all the women are directed to Cape Town, leaving the men behind. Reunited with

her husband, she is then directed to another distant "homeland" to bring up her children in a roofless house. Every time she puts down roots, the authorities tear them up again; and in the end, she is left alone, working for a white mistress, her husband dead and her children under arrest.

You see some of the ugliness in Hilary Blecher's production (which began life in the Johannesburg Market Theatre). Two Afrikaaner police enter the Cape Town house and, after a show of correct procedure, smash the place apart in pursuit of a fugitive. The 1976 Soweto uprising is presented with a stick dance, terminated by a round of machine gun fire. But otherwise violence is restricted to off-stage shouts and hammering on corrugated iron.

What consistently occupies the central focus is the behaviour of Poppie and her family under these shattering conditions. Neither the text nor the

performances are deliberately built up as noble. Also the victims speak their minds: it just happens that they speak them without self-dramatising rancour. Dignity and restraint of this order cannot be faked; and there is as much expression in their styles of movement and in Sophie Mngoma's music (unaccompanied group anthems that spring up as spontaneously as spoken dialogue). These are people used to carrying heavy weights and walking long distances.

When Poppie's ailing husband (Sello Maseko) manages his one trip to visit her, the key detail is the sight of his arrival in cheap shoes and no socks, carrying a metal box on his back. Nothing in Thuli Dumakude's heart-breaking title performance counts for more than her mute scene after his death, where she sits beside the box, reverently inspecting its contents like so many dead children.

Irving Wardle

Dance

Rough with the smooth

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden/
Sadler's Wells

Third time lucky: with changes of cast on three successive evenings, Sadler's Wells' Royal Ballet last night came up with a winning cast for *Raymonda*, in which Margaret Barbiere and David Wall both found the grandeur and radiance for the leading roles. Watching Barbiere let the music lead her through her solo, enjoying the clear, bright expansiveness with which she holds an arabesque long enough for the beauty of the line to sink in, one realises that she was able to see Fonteyn dance and is gifted enough to keep alive the style she learnt then.

This role was not, perhaps, an ideal choice for Ana Botafogo's debut as a guest with the company. She is Brazilian and a number of the company in Rio de Janeiro. Her solo dancing on Wednesday showed a strong all-round technique and a serious approach, but her long slender trunk and feet are not matched by the length of leg, which detracts from her classic line.

More romantic parts may show her to better advantage.

Roland Price partnered her attentively, but his dancing is too uneven to be really satisfying; the excellence of some steps makes the rough finish of others inexplicable. Among the soloists, Karen Donovan, Clare French and Lili Griffiths have all shown flair and Alain Duboulet leads the Hungarian dance with tremendous panache.

The new *Petrushka* has also had some new casts, although fewer than planned, because of injuries. Graham Lustig's account of the title part is sound but lugubrious until the last few bars, when he gives the rage of the puppet's ghost a manic ferocity. More light and shade earlier would help. David Binley, also playing that role, as I reported from Eastbourne last month, is easily the best British dancer I have ever seen in it. One amazing thing about his performance is the way he repeatedly evokes the many drawings Benois made of the character.

Michael O'Hare took the leading male role in *Les Rendezvous* last night. His trim

physique and cheerful manner suit it, though he will impress more if he can bring his turning steps, pirouettes and *tours en l'air*, to the same degree of security and brilliance as his beats.

Although Sadler's Wells has claimed most of my time these past few evenings, it was interesting on Wednesday to watch the first ballet at Covent Garden before dashing off to Rosebury Avenue, and to see in *Rhapsody* how Ashton recycles and develops some movement patterns from *Les Rendezvous* which he made all those years earlier. He is as frugal with steps as Stravinsky was with notes - and as successfully so.

The ballerina role was taken by Ravenna Tucker, with Wayne Eagling replacing the injured Anthony Dowell in the male lead: bizarrely eccentric in his solos, but strong in support for Tucker. Her crisp footwork was, as always, a joy, and this role revealed a soft, fluent plasticity in her shoulders and upper body that made the most of her good *épaulement* and brought a smoother, more lyrical quality to her dancing.

John Percival

Radio

How uncultivated

First we had *Snapping* - Gill Brown's documentary account, broadcast in February 1982, of one manifestation of "brainwashing", or how the Moonies, the Children of God and other contemporary cults recruit and keep their members. Last week we had *Snapping Out* (Radio 4, March 31 and April 2, director, John Cardy). This was a play by Martin Worth about the other end of the story - the process by which converts come to renounce their conversion or, as in the true instance on which this play was based, by which they are more or less forcibly deprogrammed.

I say "play", but this script was a good deal closer in tone, though not in construction, to the dramatized documentary, with dialogue too obviously dedicated to conveying essential information, and therefore

short on natural movement and spontaneity. But *Snapping Out* nevertheless managed to impart a good deal of first the bafflement, and then despair, of parents Anne and Michael Swatland (played by Jane Wenham and Jack Watling) as their daughter Susan (Lesley Dunlop) first refuses to come home from a holiday in California and then, when they go to see her, proves to have put up an impenetrable wall between her parents and herself. Persuasion does no good and, by resort, as many parents are reported to have done, to illegal abduction and deprogramming.

The process worked, and listening to this representation of it, I was surprised: it sounded

so innocuous. Yet what we heard - based on Susan's and Mrs Swatland's own account - was presumably accurate. Perhaps I listened with too many dramatic expectations of confrontation, tension, struggle.

In the event Susan just gave up, quite suddenly. Why? Perhaps because she had been taught to fear deprogramming and it was not frightening. Perhaps, because when the unremitting pressure of cult life is removed, the elastic human being tends to assume her or his previous psychological shape. I recall from my own youth that when certain university evangelists left me alone the same thing happened. I also recall that their methods were not totally unlike the Moonies' - but that was Christianity and no one said a thing.

Swimmer (Radio 3, April 1; director, Richard Worley) jointly won the 1983 *Radio Times* play competition for its author Christopher Russell, and quite right too. No lack of natural movement and spontaneity in this script, although in fact, like many such a vital piece of work, it was most cleverly and carefully contrived. Mr Russell's work told of Neil Crosby, crippled from birth with a withered leg, who develops a passion for swimming to the point that the water becomes his preferred element.

Taunted by the tongs of the local swimming team, he beats them at their own sport, detaches one of them from his girlfriend, and then persuades her to keep a night-time assignment with him at the

pool. Aquatic sex? Well, sort of. He takes her to the bottom of the deep end where, without his powers of underwater endurance, she drowns. End of play.

If this in outline sounds stark and even disagreeable, the telling made it into something quite different. It was a most skilful, even brilliant, bit of impressionistic playwriting which cut from place to place and time to time, but never lost its way. In the character of Neil Mr Russell quickly established the feeling of an obsession of enormous latent danger, portrayed superbly well by Julian Firth. If at first we might have been inclined to sneer at the playing out of a childhood addiction to *The Water Babies*, the inclination very soon departed.

We even began to see Neil's mother (Jane Wenham again - very good) and her extraordinary protectiveness as only mildly neurotic. When she finally revealed that her son when quite a tot had already drowned, the little girl in pursuit of his fantasy, her protectiveness looked even less unreasonable - protective not so much of him as of any others he might choose to cast as mermaids.

Among its other innovations this week, Radio 4 has come back to late-night drama with six connected plays by Alun Owen. *Earwig* (Saturdays; director, John Tydemann) has Hugh Burden impeccably cast as a talented restaurant eavesdropper, but I thought his first earful pretty tame - too many routine marital tensions, too few really good lines.

David Wade

London debuts

On the face of things, the programme that the Japanese pianist Kazuhiko Shigeno tackled promising a musically rewarding evening. He is clearly an artist armed with a formidable technique, but one of the worrying things about his recital was that he seemed chiefly concerned with communicating that fact, not least by making harsh sounds when he should have been more concerned with coaxing subtler colours from the instrument. Perhaps the hall's acoustic defeated him, though I can hardly believe that.

The most restrained noises were to be found, naturally, in the E minor Prelude and Fugue from Book II of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*, played clearly if with a sometimes unsatisfactory balance between the voices in the fugue. But in Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op 31 No 3 the assault on the ear began in earnest. The heat of the musical argument was largely dissipated by Shigeno's timbre. Similarly, Chopin's

Fourth Scherzo is far from being merely a vehicle for pyrotechnics; but Shigeno would have us believe otherwise, denying the work the warmth and space that should be present even in this kind of Chopin.

It was the same story in Schumann's F sharp minor Piano Sonata, where Shigeno's technical command and stamina were mightily but empty impressiveness.

In circumstances other than these Liszt's *Après une lecture du Dante* might have made a fittingly spectacular ending, but here it was as if we were simply listening to more of the same. Even this work has subtle aspects to it, but Shigeno seemed oblivious to them; moreover, for once some of the work's more outrageous technical challenges defeated him, but that mattered less than his unrelenting wearying aggressiveness.

Stephen Pettitt

Journey of a lifetime

Long Day's Journey into Night
Arts

The memory of great performances can linger for a lifetime, but the 12 years since the National's classic *Long Day's Journey* are enough to let this quite modest new staging stand in its own right.

Cast not starrily but strongly, Ludovick Villars-Hauser's production restores the intimacy of a chamber piece to O'Neill's family tragedy. This tiny theatre may have helped with the crucial problem of race projection can be light and for most of its immense length the play flows, as it should do, easily but unhurriedly, belying the passage of time.

For those who know the terrible descent to come, Darlene Johnson's performance is poignant the moment she walks on. Her last lines, so many hours later when drugs have imprisoned her in a haze of memories, speak of being wed and "happy for a time", but that lovely serene smile is already there as the family stroll in after breakfast on a fine morning, her fine husband relishing the day's first cigar.

She can love life for its little things as much as the rest of us; she seems as peaceful as the nun that she nearly became. All the crueller, then, when the anxieties and terrors crowd in, the hands twitch, the sweet face tenses, and thoughts turn to the hypodermic upstairs. Pairing her is the gruff and crazy Trevor Martin, not an obvious former matinee idol until he suddenly crosses her hands with a flood of romantic charm. How shocking, by contrast, is his late anguished embrace calling her back to sanity when it is too late.

As for the boys, Michael Deacon's Jamie looks a bit old for 33, but his face has seen the whisky all right and his features are as fatherly as a map of Ireland. In his cups, if the lights are low, he looks uncannily like the old man.

With his centre parting and light moustache, Sean Mathias's Edmund might be a suave young officer invalided home from Gettysburg; there is little sign of the consumption that is



Painful descent: Darlene Johnson and Trevor Martin

driving the family wild with anxiety and, more important, no amount of charisma or vocal artistry can turn this cool lead into a frail, hypersensitive poet.

But all of them, not forgetting nicely judged intrusions from Wendy Miller's naive and scatty Irish maid, play as though they have inhabited this little world for years. The unresolvable bitterness over the dead child, Edmund's catastrophic birth or their life as theatrical nomads are as familiar as the easy-chair or the Shakespeare on the wall.

Silently acknowledged lies about the sneaked tot of John Barleycorn or shot of morphine, smouldering resentments about the past spoiling the present,

seem so accepted that when a suddenly uncontrolled Mary throws a glass of liquor over the cloth it seems worse than vitriol.

Only in the fourth act, which runs to 85 minutes, did control slip and, through nobody's individual fault, the brothers' late night recriminations and Jamie's Swinburne quotes as his mother, obviously drifts seemed to go on longer than usual.

All the same, so soon after one major O'Neill revival and just as another opens, it is a valuable chance to see the play that brings you deeper into the pain of his past than any other.

Anthony Masters

Television

A rocky landing

In 1979, the Vietnamese boat people caught the world's attention when they bought their freedom from the government and set sail, braving piracy and the hazards of the sea, to find a new life. The exodus took most countries by surprise, and for the most accessible places concern about the impact of large numbers of refugees on their economies overwhelmed sympathy.

Malaysia was one such country. It dumped 40,000 refugees on an island a quarter of a mile square, shipping in food and water. And there they waited in terrible conditions for countries to take them in.

World About Us reporter Harold Williamson and producer Clem Vallance made a film of their plight and, in a follow-up on BBC2 last night, considered the fate of some refugees in their new homelands.

America, most favoured in the expectations of the Vietnamese and therefore able to pick and choose, took half a million. Britain, 16,000. In America, it seems they are doing fairly well. Unemployment among them is at the national average. The ones we saw in Tampa, Florida, and New Orleans, appeared to have adjusted to the American way of life.

In Britain, the picture was sadly different. Unemployment among the refugees is 80 per cent. It is feared that the

majority of those over 40 will not work again. Millions of pounds have been spent, and the government's good intentions were not challenged. But the policy of dispersing the refugees, adopted with the intent of avoiding ghettos, is now admitted to have been disastrous, by denying the Vietnamese the reassurance and capacity for self-help of their own communities.

Many have been unable to understand the concept of social security, the idea that people can be paid for not working. There has been a drift to the inner city areas to find comfort, not jobs, and possibly exploitation.

Mr Barry Denton, of the Ockendon Venture, said that despite Britain's tradition of receiving immigrants, he had been told many times that in its attitudes, Britain was not a country of migration. There was a saying, he said, that anyone who judged the first generation of immigrants was a fool; the second, an optimist; the third, a realist.

There were indications in the film, despite this sombre reflection, that the second generation encouraged by uncomplaining parents are integrating well and pursuing their education with vigour. Experience, with luck perhaps, will be confounded.

Dennis Hackett

WEEKEND CHOICE

"Best acting in the film", says Ken Russell, munching his way through a bag of cinema popcorn while, on screen, penguins waddle to Ralph Vaughan Williams's score for the Ealing film *Scott of the Antarctic*. Something of the old devil in Russell does, then, survive in his *South Bank Show* film about RVW (tomorrow, ITV, 10.30pm). And something of the old darling. Who else, for instance, would have had the audacity to illustrate the "Pastoral" Symphony with shots of the composer's widow avoiding tanks on a muddy plain? Or the "London" Symphony, with director and widow jiving through sweeping colour and searchlight in the local "hop"? But Mr Russell is visibly mellowing, hence the film's book-ends in which he takes his tiny daughter through the pages of a picture book on RVW's life.

Only "Once upon a time..." is missing.

Lavinia Warner's documentary *G.I. Brides* (tonight, Channel 4, 9.35pm) completes the story that *Yanks and We'll Meet Again* left unfinished: what happened to those British girls who did marry their American boyfriends and crossed the Atlantic to find out whether there really was a crock of gold at the end of the rainbow. "Traitor, traitor! You'll be sorry", jeered the British troops as the bride-laden Queen Mary steamed out of harbour. Some were sorry, ending up in a miners' shanty town, with goats tethered to lengths of string. But others found the crock and became millionaires' wives. Miss Warner's sad and funny film has been 40 years in the making. It was worth waiting for.

Peter Davalle

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THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO ASSIST THE ARTS

Never before have the arts been in such a parlous state as they are today. Unless immediate action is taken by the Government to redress the balance of funding and the removal of VAT from theatre, concert, opera, ballet tickets, artists materials and the hiring and sale of works of art, all branches of the arts will continue to decline and in many areas be subject to possible extinction.

Following on from a recent dinner given by the Sutton Manor Arts Centre in honour of Dame Elisabeth Frink DBE RA, it was resolved by those present to form the National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts. The Committee have called a private meeting for leading personalities from all sectors of the arts at the Dorchester Hotel, (Ballroom Entrance) Park Lane, London W1 on Monday 16th April at 12 noon, to approve the following Resolution. The Committee would request you, as a member of the public, to join in by signing this Resolution and forwarding it to us at the address below:-

RESOLUTION

- The meeting notes that local authorities and the Arts Council have taken a substantial lead in the development of the arts in the United Kingdom over the past 30 years and that the six Metropolitan Authorities spent about £12 million on the Arts in 1983/84. It is the meeting's view that the proposals in the Government's white paper "Streamlining the Cities" could be potentially damaging to the Arts if future funding arrangements are left to the discretionary decision of ad-hoc consortia of local authorities. It is the meeting's view therefore, that to safeguard the current level of support for the Arts, formally constituted joint boards, involving all the successor authorities in each area be set up with the power to precept on local authorities in each area.
- It is the meeting's view that the position and role of the Arts Council be strengthened so that if central Government support for the Arts in the Metropolitan areas is increased, there should be no weakening of support for the Arts in the regions and provinces. A clear distinction must be made by the Government between support for the Arts in the Metropolitan areas and the regions. While support in the Metropolitan areas could be maintained under the joint boards recommended above, regional support should be increased through the Arts Council.
- The meeting recognises the enormous role private sponsorship of the Arts ought to play in Britain and urges the Government to encourage additional patronage by introducing a set of incentives to both the corporate and the private sponsor. These incentives should take the form of tax concessions and personal income tax relief. In outline, such incentives should

- include:
- a. Tax relief against gifts and donations made to recognised art charities.
- b. The period of deed of covenants in favour of charities should be reduced.
- c. Company law should be amended to include donations and sponsorship of arts as an allowable relief on corporation tax.
- d. Gifts of works of art to art and educational charities should be exempted from capital transfer tax without limit.
- e. The Government should immediately heed the call to abolish VAT where levied to the detriment of the Arts not only on theatre, opera and concert tickets, but also on the sale and hirings of works of art and art supplies. Such action would redress the anomaly that VAT is not levied on printed literature and the public printed news media.

- The meeting approves the National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts to monitor the transition period of the Abolition Proposals so as to ensure that Art funding will not suffer during and after the period of reorganisation, and that they should use the best endeavours to have their findings published as widely as possible in the national media.
- The meeting agrees that it is important to widen the constituency of public support for the arts and art related activity, so that instead of politicising the Arts, there is a genuine attempt to involve and to increase awareness of the public about the benefits of the Arts in an increasingly leisure based society; and agrees to a campaign which promotes the Arts through the media and other art related institutions.

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When completed please post this signed Resolution to

The Honorary Secretary
National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts
Sutton Manor
(Freeport)
Winchester
SO21 3BR
(no stamp required)

I support the National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts in their Resolution to be adopted at the meeting at the Dorchester Hotel, London on the 16th April 1984.

Signed _____
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Rodney Cawston

Jeffrey Howe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been criticised for his handling of the Grenada crisis.

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SPORTING DIARY

How Happy the Valley

Hongkong
If you believe all you read in the papers, you may well be convinced that Hongkong is finished. If you actually go there, arriving in the bullish thunder of construction work, you realize that the place is not even completed yet. And you may have thought that Sporting Week, taking place just after Jardine Matheson had announced that it was moving to Bermuda — a rough equivalent of shifting the Bank of England to the Cayman Islands — would be somewhat depressing. Not a bit of it. Hongkong's lunatic sporting life continues as before.

Look no further than race meetings. As the stock market slithered, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club was nothing up a new betting record for one meeting. In nine races, bets to the value of HK\$31,297,017, or more than £30m, were struck.

Being a trifle lunatic is certainly an asset when it comes to unravelling the form of Hongkong horses, or even braving the queue for hamburgers at the Happy Valley racecourse. But round about the time of the first Hongkong Derby, in 1875, there was a racegoer who took the lunacy idea a little too far. He believed that he was not a retired Indian civil servant at all, but was in fact a poached egg. The Hongkong crowd gave him every assistance, sprinkling his head with salt when he required it, and helping him when he was tired to sit down on his chosen piece of toast.

Even better

Asia's richest horse-racing event is not held in Hongkong, or even in Japan, but in the tiny Portuguese colony of Macao, 40 miles from Hongkong across the mouth of the Pearl River. This is the Caesar's Palace meeting at the Macao Trotting Club. Hongkong racing snobs might tell you this is a Mickey Mouse operation, but you might get a counter-argument from Chung Sai-yu. Mr Chung paid £14,000 for a horse called Best Time which promptly won the Caesar's Palace Gold Cup, worth £100,000. I hope Mr Chung had a bet — his horse started at 30 to 1. I have a feeling he did.

Old school undies

The visiting Public School Wanderers failed to cover themselves with glory when they came to Hongkong to contest the Hongkong Invitations Sevens last weekend. Our lads demonstrated the benefits of a good education by wearing pink sunglasses for the grand parade of teams from 24 countries, and carried umbrellas that spelled out, for the benefit of Hongkong morale, the dread word "Bermuda". A bad move: Hongkongers make their own in-jokes. Still, the Wanderers did show everyone at the tournament's official dinner that public school men all wear lovely underclothes. The Hongkongers thought the Fijians were much nicer.

All black

Football in Hongkong is a long way from the boom time of the early Seventies, but the first division still includes a goodly mix of imported players. They include Keith Robson, formerly of West Ham, Peter Bodak, formerly of Manchester City, Aarlie Haan, the Netherlands, Benny Wenda, a current Swedish international, and Neto from Brazil. The most determined importer of them all is Veronica Chiu who, in her heyday as owner of the Caroline Hill Club, brought players into Hongkong from all over the world. One of the least successful was a black South African called Lucas Moripe. To make him feel at home, he was asked to share a room with a fellow countryman, an Afrikaner. When it was realized that this was a slight mistake, he promptly brought in another black South African, James Inthombeni. He was not from Moripe's tribe: in fact their two tribes had been at war for 400 years.

... all white

The Hongkong Chinese call Europeans Gwai-lo, or ghost people, because of their pale skins and other ill-omened attributes. In deference to the Chinese lover of puns, a team of European footballers from the outlying island of Lamma have called themselves Gwai-loong, or ghost dragons, a rough translation being "Super-dogs". They are acquiring new sponsors, but insist they will continue to play all in white. For the Chinese, white is the colour of funerals and death. "It gives us a vital psychological advantage," says their player manager, John Keir.

Simon Barnes

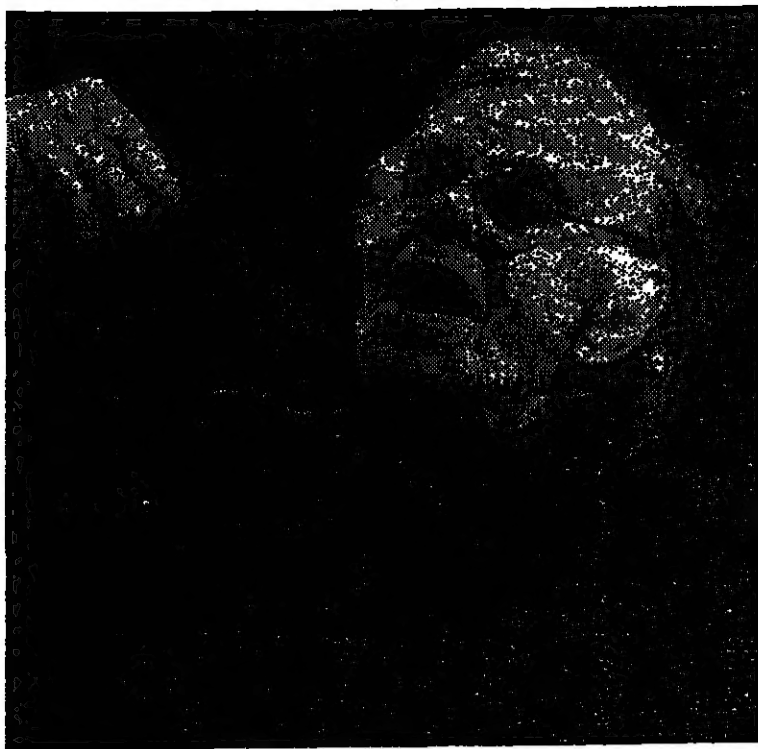
BARRY FANTONI



"Waddya mean, you'll complain about me to the captain? I am the captain!"

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Catch this mole while you can



Goodall: thoroughness, care, fidelity

The curtain falls, rises to display the cast for their bows, falls, rises again, falls again, rises a third time. Only then does the audience see, embedded in the line-up of the singers like a wilting petunia in a bed of hollyhocks, a frail figure, blinking at the light like some tiny, fanny creature woken from hibernation — an apt comparison indeed, for he bears an extraordinary likeness to the late Richard Goodall in full fig as Mole ("Oh, Toady, boasting again") in the stage version of *The Wind in The Willows*.

Until he appears, the applause has been warm, at the sight of him, however, the audience — 2,000-odd the night I saw the performance — bursts unanimously into so stupendous a yell of excitement, approbation and gratitude that it must have seismographs on the other side of the world goggling in disbelief at their machines.

Writhing in embarrassment, he hides behind the nearest hollyhock. The curtain falls; however many times it rises again, no further glimpse of him is to be had, and the cast take the rest of the calls without him.

The story of Reginald Goodall is one of the strangest in British musical history. He is almost 83 years old; when the Covent Garden Opera Company was formed at the end of the Second World War he joined the music staff and for decades he has spent the greater part of his time coaching singers. Every now and again, Covent Garden would throw him a bone in the form of allowing him to conduct one or two performances of an opera already in the repertoire; up the road at Sadlers Wells he conducted the historic first performance, in 1945, of *Peter Grimes*.

Nearly a quarter of a century later, Sadlers Wells were to repay that debt, and to put us all in his for the rest of our lives. In 1968, when he was 67, he conducted a new production of *The Mastersingers*; first at Sadlers Wells itself and then, when the Sadlers Wells Company acquired the Coliseum as their permanent home and became the English National Opera, in the Theatre of London. It was the first Wagner production mounted with him in mind from the start; indeed, after the *Peter Grimes* at Sadlers Wells I know of no production, in the intervening years, of any other opera by any composer which was his creation.

That production of *The Mastersingers* was one of the most astounding musical revelations of modern times; for non-Wagnerians I can only convey the extraordinary nature of it by saying it was as though there was an actor and odd-job-man who had been on the books of the National Theatre for well over 20 years without ever being allowed to play any role bigger than the herald in Act V of *King Lear*, yet who overnight turned out to be one of the greatest Hamlets living. A friend of mine had been abroad at the time that *The Mastersingers* opened, and

returned to find all the tickets sold; he rang me to ask whether it was worth his persevering in the search for one. I told him that if his grandmother had a ticket he should murder her for it at once, if the management would allow it; he should hang from the chandelier by his teeth throughout the performance, and that if all else failed he should hire out his smooth white body for the use of rough sailors until he had earned enough to buy a ticket on the black market.

I don't know which of these stratagems he ultimately adopted; I felt it might be indecent to enquire. But whichever it was, he plainly thought he had got a bargain, and so said all of us. For my own part, I remember feeling that I had never heard the work before, so freshly studied was Goodall's reading, so meticulous was his attention to every detail, so spacious, unhurried and loving was his conception of the work.

Thus emboldened, the ENO launched upon their first ever complete *Ring*, which was cast, prepared and conducted, from beginning to end, by Goodall. The result was the same: a reading that got as close to the heart of that work's great mystery as any I had ever heard.

By now he was well into his seventies, when even conductors (a notoriously long-lived race) are thinking of retiring. Our shy Alexander, however, dried his tears at the thought that there were no more worlds to conquer, and struck up an alliance with the Welsh National Opera, which is based in Cardiff but has a most enterprising touring policy (as well as very high artistic standards). For them he

prepared and conducted a *Tristan*, with yet another immense success, and embarked on the last in the chain of works from Wagner's maturity, *Parsifal*, in 1983.

I laid my plans for a surprise raid on Cardiff, alas, at the last minute Goodall, by then well over 80, was compelled by ill-health to withdraw, and in the end he conducted none of the performances, which were given by Richard Armstrong.

Well, that was that; we who had been inspired by his Wagnerian productions over a dozen years wished him a long and happy retirement, and tried to be wise enough not to waste our time yearning for the performances we would now never be able to add to our collection. We reckoned, however, without the old gentleman in velvet ("Well done, old mole, canst work? 'the earth so fast?"; so far from succumbing to age and its disabilities, he merely gave himself a good shake and embarked on an entirely new *Ring* for the Welsh National Opera.

It was the *Walküre* from the new cycle that I was describing in my preliminary remarks today; I had gone to Bristol for it. The cast was not outstanding, though there was a very promising Hunding from Roderick Earle; the production, too, was only adequate at its best (Act I) and for the rest of the time was idiotic even by the standards of *Ring* directors who think (wrongly, in every case) that they are cleverer than Wagner — Wotan and Fricka lived, armed the permafrost, under the end of the Chiswick Flyover, with no furniture other than three marble tombstones in the shape and colour of supermarket cheddar.

No matter; Shaw long ago pointed out that the best way to see the *Ring* in an opera-house is sitting in a box with your back to the stage and your feet up, and the playing that Goodall got from the orchestra was of a quality to challenge comparison with any orchestra in this country. The Bristol Hippodrome has no pit; the orchestra simply occupied the front of the house, and were thus on a level with the stalls seats. This resulted in an exceptionally full volume of sound, made all the richer by the Hippodrome's excellent acoustics; but it also provided for a clarity of orchestral detail that was right up Goodall's street.

Along that street he marched with a musical trend that belied with its firmness at least 50 of his 83 years. Again, I had the extraordinary sensation that I was hearing the work for the first time (which, as my regular readers will know all too well, is by no means the case); there were passages — the orchestral interludes in the Farewell, the change of key just before we hear the Valkyrie theme at the beginning of Act II, the long threnody for Wotan's agony at the impending betrayal of his son — which I simply didn't recognize, not because Goodall was distorting them but because he was picking them out and shaping them with such thoroughness, care and fidelity that they were new-born in my ears.

It is a musical scandal beyond compare — and now, alas, despite Goodall's apparently inexhaustible youthfulness, beyond remedy — that we have never heard the great Wagner canon conducted by this great specialist in Wagner's works with a hand-picked international cast of the front rank, such singers as Norman Bailey, Rita Hunter and Alberto Remedios have been the equal of almost any contemporary singer of their roles (and in the case of Bailey's Sachs the superior) but no one could maintain that the general ensemble at either the ENO or WNO has that quality through-out, and neither orchestra excellent work though they both do, can play Wagner like the Berlin, the Vienna, the Chicago, the Bayreuth under Furtwängler or Soli, the Dresden under von Karajan.

As Sancho Panza said, we must learn to itch where we can scratch. Music-lovers whose love encompasses Wagner will, if they have had the good sense and good fortune to get to Goodall's performances over the years, by now possess a store of memories (to say nothing of recordings) that will always illuminate the works for them, and will provide a standard by which to judge other performances. We might have had more, but it is no use crying for the moon, let alone the sun. Meanwhile, tonight, in Birmingham, he is conducting his last performance of *Die Walküre* this season. I don't suppose there are any seats left, but if your grandmother has a ticket...

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Woodrow Wyatt

Why we should all be contracted in

Labour Party income is running at something over £3m a year. Nearly all comes from trade union affiliation fees paid out of their political funds. In 1979, the political funds of the unions subscribed nearly £1m extra to the Labour Party for general election purposes, and in 1983 about an additional £2.25m. Without the political funds of the unions, the Labour Party would be in acute difficulties.

The new Trade Union Bill will require all unions to hold a ballot of their members to find out whether they want a political fund at all. According to a Gallup poll taken shortly after the last election, 39 per cent of trade unionists voted Labour, 32 per cent Conservative and 28 per cent for the Liberal/SDP Alliance. A number of larger unions may not have a majority for a political fund to be continued, particularly as the assumption is that such political funds go almost entirely to supporting the Labour Party.

If that happened, the contrast between the comparatively rich Conservative Party, buttressed by donations from industry, and an impoverished Labour Party, would be an affront to democracy. If the new legislation is passed, union members will not be able to say how they would like any political funds decided on to be allotted between the three major political groupings. The Labour Party will take all. That will be rough on the Alliance, which has few big backers in industry. It will make no difference to the Conservative Party, which can get all the money it needs from the boards of companies well disposed to it.

There is also the matter of union members contracting in or contracting out of paying the political levy. Many trade unionists feel unable to surmount the obstacles, emotional and practical, put up against their contracting out. To avoid losing the inertia selling nature of the contracting out principle, the General Council of the TUC has made a bargain with Mr Tony Blair, the Secretary for Employment. It has promised him that union members will be made much more aware of their right to contract out. But in unions where a political fund has been decided upon by ballot, and is maintained by ballots, which under the new legislation will have to be held every ten years, the social pressures not to contract out will remain very strong. Trade unions have for decades been giving promises of good behaviour, few of which have been implemented.

That is why 42 Tory MPs rebelled in the small hours of Tuesday morning in the hope of making the new law insist on contracting in instead of contracting out. Logically, and in terms of absolute democracy, they were right. Why should people be more or less compelled to

subscribe to a political party they don't believe in unless they are willing to incur the odium of their more militant colleagues by boldly opting out?

But the pact Mr King and the union leaders made was as much to protect the Conservative Party's finances as the Labour Party's. The quid pro quo for the Tories is that the next Labour government will not make it illegal for companies to subscribe to political parties.

A dirty deal has been done for which the justification is that democracy requires both the Conservative Party and the Labour Party to be financially secure. However, the party in the middle, by this crude application of democracy, is to have little or nothing.

A better approach would be to recognize the democratic necessities. Political parties ought to have the resources to do their propaganda adequately, if the public are to have the facts and arguments to choose between them. This should not be confined to the two major parties. The Liberal/SDP Alliance got 25.4 per cent of the votes cast in 1983, nearly as many as Labour's 27.6 per cent. Why are the Liberals and Social Democrats to be excluded from the political gravy train by a carve-up between the two major parties?

Honesty and fairness would be the best policy. The contentious political levy in the unions should be abolished: the right of companies to make political contributions should be abolished. Many shareholders do not wish the great bulk of the political contributions made by their companies to go only to the Conservative Party. A lot would like the Alliance to have a share, and a few would even like Labour to have some.

Instead, the state should make available to each political party the funds it needs to conduct its affairs with reasonable effectiveness. The money should be allocated in accordance with the numbers of votes each party received at the previous general election, except those with, say, less than 5 per cent of the votes. The total bill to the nation would not be more than about £20m a year.

It would be worth paying that to avoid the squalid rows about political levies and shareholders' money. The Conservative Party should welcome the change: it would no longer be tainted with the understandable suspicion that it is too much beholden to big business. The Labour Party would be helped by removing its excessive influence over the trade union leaders on its policies. The benefit to the Liberal/SDP Alliance would be obvious but democratic. Such new arrangements would not prohibit individuals voluntarily subscribing anything they felt like to the political parties to top up what they received from the state.

Rod Morgan

Just visiting—to what purpose?

Almost a year ago *The Times* published a letter from me (May 9, 1983) protesting about custodial conditions for trial and remand prisoners. I wrote the letter as a member of a prison board of visitors, the lay bodies who, on behalf of the community and the Home Secretary who appoints them, act *inter alia* as public watchdogs over our prisons. I concluded my letter on a despairing, and probably unwise note, with the question "Who could deny that unconvicted prisoners, subject to the presumption of innocence and held in conditions officially described as 'an affront to a civilized society' would be justified in disrupting the shameful system in which they are captive?"

The letter brought an angry response from the Prison Officers' Association. On May 25 *The Times* reported the POA chairman, Mr Colin Steel, saying that he could not reconcile my letter with my duties as a board member. "How," he asked, "could he (Mr Morgan) effectively dispense justice to an inmate facing him under the Prison Rules?" He called for my dismissal.

I was not dismissed. But most of my board colleagues were displeased with my action and shortly afterwards the POA chairman, Mr Colin Steel, saying that he could not reconcile my letter with my duties as a board member. "How," he asked, "could he (Mr Morgan) effectively dispense justice to an inmate facing him under the Prison Rules?" He called for my dismissal.

On one level, this story can be viewed as simply a failure on my part to appreciate the responsibilities and protocol of my office. But no longer can I much sympathize with a watchdog which, with few exceptions, fails to bark.

Since I wrote my letter the position of the untried has not improved. Trial waiting periods get longer, prisoners are not produced in court, and thousands are doubled and tripled up in unsanitary cell conditions. The scandalous use of police cells has been reduced only marginally and that at the price of dispersing London prisoners to provincial prisons where their domestic and legal visits are gravely disrupted.

These conditions have been deplored by the Prisons Inspectorate, the Parliamentary Penal Affairs Committee, the Law Society and, when cases have been disrupted, by the judiciary. But I have looked in vain for protests from prison visitors' chairmen, whose public duty it is to monitor these matters.

Not only have there been no press conferences, but few boards have even published an annual report of their work. Almost without exception they continue to keep their

membership secret. The only sound comes from the Association of Members of Boards of Visitors, a small minority of individual members striving to breathe life into an accountability mechanism which, broadly speaking, fails to account. Is there one example of a board of visitors bringing a single abuse to public light? I know of none.

To be fair to boards of visitors, their public silence does not necessarily indicate either complacency or acquiescence. In private they do a little growing. But their agitation, mostly uncoordinated and seldom effective, is invariably directed against the Prison Department rather than its political master.

The reluctance of boards of visitors to "come out" is not, as some would have it, merely a consequence of their generally established membership. It is rather a structural product of their appointment — constitutional duties. They are appointed by, and accountable only to, the Home Secretary; they have minor executive functions and, above all, they are responsible for the adjudication of disciplinary offences committed by prisoners.

Mr Colin Steel speaks of justice in prisons. The rules which Parliament has laid down to determine the quality of life for prisoners are quoted both in letter and spirit, as a matter of routine. Boards of visitors are taught to learn to live with that. After all, if the rules were not breached, how could the Prison Department cope? Their specific duty, they are reminded, is to punish the prisoners who break the disciplinary rules. And this, I found, was an intolerably ill-balanced and unjust dilemma.

In future, I shall pursue my interest in prisons policy by other means. However, the tensions which eventually finished me as a board member may soon be dispelled. The Home Secretary has recently appointed a working party, under Mr Peter Prior, to look into boards' adjudicatory and other duties.

The working party should recommend two fundamental changes. First, offences committed in prison which are criminal (as opposed to disciplinary) should be tried by special panels of magistrates or members of the judiciary. Secondly, the tasks of prison inspection and prisoner grievance ventilation should be handed over to a committee of elected and lay persons (not magistrates) appointed by the local authority. These local panels should have the right to attend any trial conducted within a prison. The application of the separation of powers doctrine to prisons is long overdue.

How the Budget could kill British films: David Hewson reports



1982: "Chariots of Fire", a winner all the way. Without City risk capital it might never have been made



1984: Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay in "The Dresser". Could it be the last British film in the running?

Goodbye Oscar, unless they change the last reel

The most glittering names of the American film business assemble in Hollywood on Monday for that most auspicious of occasions, the Oscar awards ceremony. David Puttnam, the British producer who collected the best film award for *Chariots of Fire* two years ago, will not be with them.

Puttnam has no film among this year's runners. Even with the success of his Goldcrest stablemate, Sir Richard Attenborough, with *Gandhi* last year, his absence now is probably well timed. The Academy electorate may feel inclined to smile favourably on one British film, *The Dresser*, but Puttnam would be hard pressed to exude the kind of optimism about the industry which came so readily two years ago.

The British film business has cried wolf so often that many people have stopped listening. That is a shame because, for once, the crisis is real. For example, the Salkind empire, which has spent £75m on making three *Superman* films and a *Supergirl* film in Britain in the last decade, is planning, reluctantly, to head for foreign shores. It could be joined by the American producers of other British-made blockbusters such as the James Bond and *Star Wars* series. Puttnam himself, though the best-known British film producer in the world, is struggling to find finance for a new series of *First Love*, the joint venture of films made for television in this country and theatrical release abroad which Channel 4 wants to continue.

The Rank Organisation, which has made fat profits in recent years from Pinewood Studios and its film processing laboratories, has taken what is for such a rearing group, the extraordinary step of sending a delegation to the Technology Minister, Kenneth Baker, to warn him of the danger to the British industry.

The immediate reason for this dismay is hidden in the details of the recent Budget. But a more general malaise afflicting the industry stems from a conviction that, for all the

optimistic talk about a promising new future for the leisure business, the Government is more interested in the mechanics of the entertainment industry, such as cable and satellite networks, than the products on which they rely.

Strangely, this latest bout of gloom among cinema people does not stem from any public disaffection with their output. Indeed, a few recent developments on the theatre-owning front, notably Romaine Hart's expanding independent cinema chain in London, have made the theatrical side of things look decidedly less miserable.

What has sent this shock of pessimism sweeping through the film world is the Chancellor's Budget decision to scrap capital allowances. This move might seem peripheral to the film business but in fact has implications for anyone wanting to indulge in the dodgy business of putting pounds at risk in a movie.

Capital allowances were first extended to film stocks in 1979. Without them, several of the key film investment developments of the last few years would never have been made. It was the lure of the tax advantages involved which first attracted the City to the cinema at a time when conventional film backers were starting to feel uncomfortable about the whole idea. Half the money for *Chariots of Fire* came from just such a source, while Goldcrest's formative years rested

on persuading conventional City investors that the allowances made the risk worthwhile.

But even those who have used the allowances to the full have accepted that they would probably disappear in the long run. Philosophically, this was not viewed as a particularly bad thing. After all, a healthy industry would want to rely on backers who wanted to invest in films for the products themselves, not for tax reasons. The question was: when? And the answer which the industry thought it had received from the Government was: around the end of the decade.

One of the most prolonged projects of the Department of Trade and Industry over the past three years has been a review of the film sector, first ordered by Iain Sprouat, who then lost his parliamentary seat, and later taken over by his successor, Kenneth Baker. Delayed by the election and Baker's dogged insistence on seeing as many representatives of the multi-faceted cinema industry as possible, the results are due to be published as a White Paper in the next few weeks.

The trade-off expected in the report was an unalloyed compromise: capital allowances — which Baker cited to several of those he interviewed as an example of direct government support for films — would be retained for the time being. But the Eady Levy on cinema admissions would be scrapped, leaving the National Film Finance Corporation to fend for itself in the commercial market. Attenborough and Puttnam, who have been vociferous in the NFFC's defence,

may have been persuaded to throw a little grudging support behind the compromise agreement, on the grounds that it left the most important prop for the industry intact.

But with capital allowances being cut in the Budget, their position is now rapidly changing. Baker's White Paper is being hastily redrafted, convincing many that he had no idea that the main plank of his support for the industry was about to be chopped from under him.

When the White Paper finally arrives, perhaps a few weeks after a new British Oscar success, Baker, having desperately tried to convince the industry that he wants to help it, stands to find himself condemned as the man who has called "Cut" on the future of a generation of British films.

The absence of capital allowances will probably not hinder producers of the stature of Puttnam or companies of the scope of Goldcrest. A studio technician at Pinewood who has spent the last year making American-produced blockbusters might feel less secure. By tightening the leeway on financing investment, the Budget cuts effectively narrow the chances of recognizably British films being made, since the certain money is more likely to be spent on mass-appeal films identifiably made for the American market. *The Dresser*, for all its acclaim, was the product of an unexpected gap in bookings on a Pinewood stage, a quick deal to put together a small budget, and the kind of gamble which producers have become accustomed to take in recent years.

Scrap the NFFC too, or change its character, and one does away with the cinematic version of the Royal Court: one may not like what it produces in its own house, but the later work of its graduates may often make the initial indulgence worthwhile. If a quirky little film like *The Dresser* wins an Oscar for Britain on Monday night, we should savour it for the cinematic renaissance which began with *Chariots of Fire* may well be coming to a close.

Correction

Reader's approval: 600,000 daily and not as reported on this page yesterday.

12, 13
Travel: Gentleness and the art of survival on the Caribbean island of Nevis; a rose-tinted view of Albi in France

14, 15
Travel: Fare Deals to Europe: Drink: Wines for April: Values: Out on the tiles; Shopfront: Easter gifts; In the Garden

THE TIMES Saturday

16, 17
Review: Rock records of the month: Critics' choice of Theatre, Galleries, Films, Concerts, Rock & Jazz, Opera, Dance, Films on TV

19, 20
Family Life: A day trip to Brighton; Bridge; Chess; Prize crossword; Out and About; Collecting: Fakes; and The Week Ahead

7-13 APRIL 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Is there life after Torvill and Dean? Thousands of starry-eyed young British skaters are taking to the ice-rinks and dreaming of glory. As Peter Waymark reports, the facilities are at last beginning to catch up with the talent

Skating into a new ice age

At the height of the Winter Olympic Games, when television screens seemed to be showing Torvill and Dean and little else but Torvill and Dean, something remarkable was taking place at Streatham Ice Rink in south London.

Egged on by hopeful parents, dozens of small children started turning up at the rink to be enrolled for the "Baby Blades" course for the under-fives. There were so many of them in the end, around 70, that the rink ran out of skates.

The same sort of thing has been happening at other rinks, as the glamour and success of Britain's ice skating world champions rub off on young talents inspired to think that one day they may be stepping up on to the podium to have gold medals hung round their necks.

There is nothing like Britain beating the world and, no less important, the relaying of this achievement into millions of homes via television screens, to enhance the appeal of skating at the popular level.

Torvill and Dean in 1984, Robin Cousins in 1980, John Curry in 1976 - fortunately for the health of the sport, there has been no shortage of golden moments.

On each occasion demand for skating has reached a new peak, fallen back a little as one idol has passed out of the public eye and the next one has still to emerge, then come back afresh. But as the sport booms once more in the wake of the sublime Torvill and Dean, no one should feel complacent.

The Lee Valley Ice Centre in east London, which opened in January, was the first new rink of competition size in this country for more than 10 years. In the whole of England there are still only 24 rinks, one less than in Paris alone. Dick Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, sounds this warning:

"The nation has been thrilled by the triumphs of Torvill and Dean. Robin Cousins and John Curry, but these have been achieved in face of an appalling lack of facilities. We cannot expect to maintain our position in world skating, or even meet the demands of those who

simply wish to skate for fun, with such a poor level of provision."

The last British world champions actually to train in Britain were Bernard Ford and Diane Towler in the 1960s. Both Curry and Cousins were forced to go to the United States, while Torvill and Dean smoothed their path to perfection by taking advantage of generous German facilities at Obersdorf in the Bavarian Alps.

British rinks, whether run by private companies or as in the case of the Lee Valley, by public authorities, have to balance the books and this means trying to get as many people on the ice as possible. Those budding champions who want the ice to themselves have to use the rinks either very early in the morning or very late at night, or go abroad.

Ford and Towler won the world title four years running and retired undefeated. To reach and maintain this standard they were on the ice at Queens Club in London at least seven days a week, to get in the required amount of practice and coaching before the start of the public sessions.

Things were little better when Janet Thompson and Warren Maxwell became British ice dance champions in 1976 and runners-up for the world title in the following year.

They were up by 4.30 each morning to be on the ice at Queens by 5.30. They trained for three hours, broke off for breakfast, skated again until noon and then did a fitness run in Hyde Park. In the afternoon they went to their jobs. Janet going up the road from Queens to serve in Whiteley's, the department store. What energy they had left was used up in ballroom dancing and ballet training at the Dance Centre in Covent Garden.

By the time Torvill and Dean succeeded Thompson and Maxwell as British champions, sponsorship had arrived and both were able to give up their jobs - Jayne in an insurance office, Chris as a policeman on the beat - to concentrate on skating.

Then, instead of having to get up in the small hours to use Nottingham Ice Rink in private, or share it with armies of schoolchildren during the day-time, they had the chance to go

to Obersdorf. There they had the ice virtually to themselves and could skate as long as they liked and at civilized hours.

But for the budding Torvills and Deans of today, it is still a case of fitting in their training sessions on British rinks before the public has arrived or after it has gone. Diane Towler, now senior instructor at Streatham, is on the ice each Saturday from 9am, taking youngsters through the various skills, and twice a week, on average, she has a late night that begins at 11 and can go on until three o'clock in the morning.

Skaters start as young as three or four and already at that age are able to tackle the first of the nine grades laid down by the National Skating Association. But Diane Towler sees a danger in reaching too high a level too young and would rather embark on serious tuition at seven or eight.

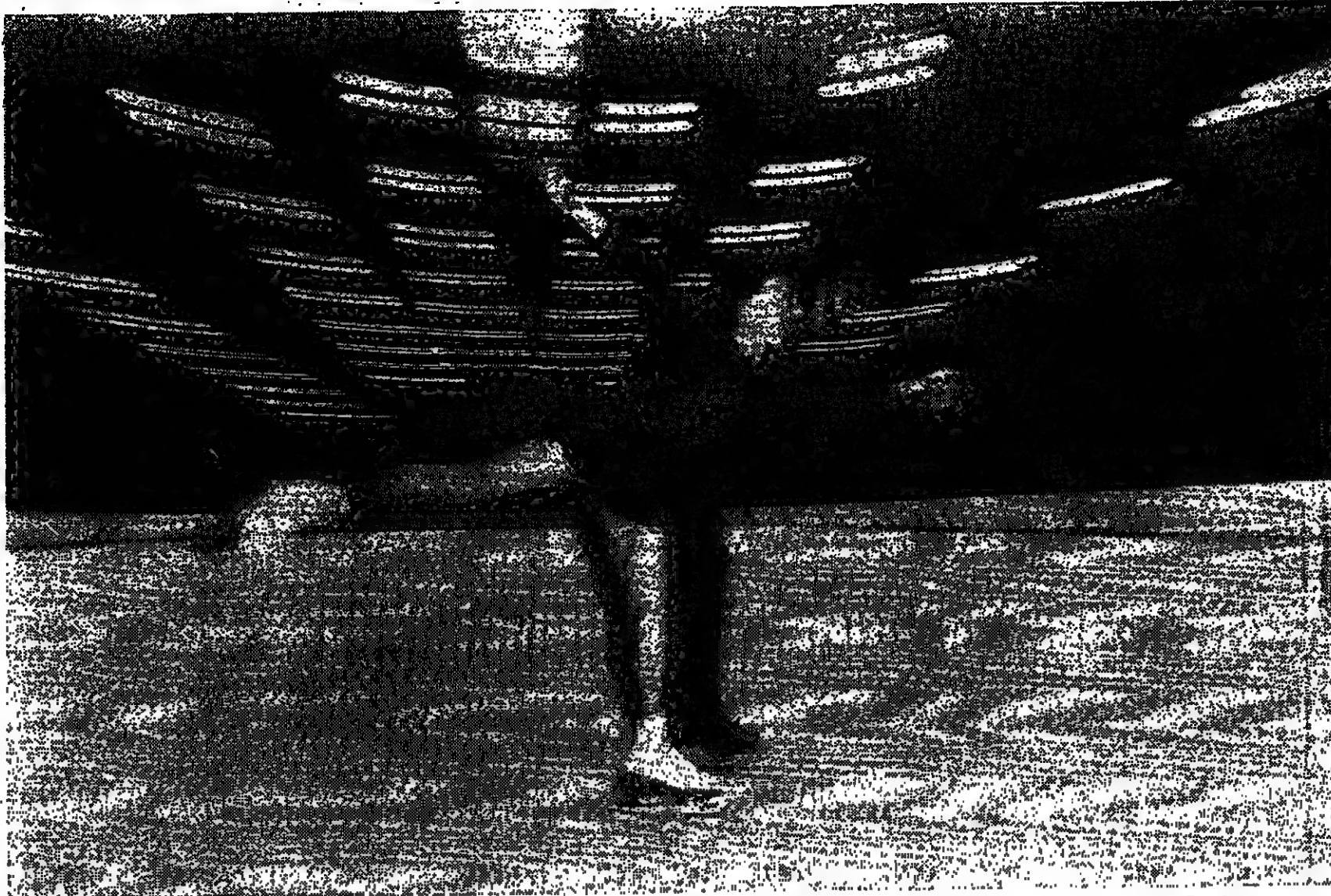
Janet Thompson, another champion turned teacher - she coaches at Queens - agrees. "It is nice for three-year-olds to get on the ice to gain confidence but it is not until they are older that they take things in and understand what you are trying to get them to do."

After the grades, the National Skating Association offers a preliminary test and then a sequence of medal exams - bronze, silver and gold. Gold is British championship standard and only a handful of skaters manage it each year. Among those who did not was Robin Cousins. The highest NSA award, the gold star, has been awarded only once - to Torvill and Dean.

For the vast majority of skaters who will never aspire to national, let alone world competition, getting on the ice can still be a source of satisfaction. Age has little to do with it: both Diane Towler and Janet Thompson number among their students men in their seventies.

Any discussion of ice skating keeps coming back to facilities and the argument tends to be a circular one. Surveys carried out to establish the popularity of the sport suggest that it lags well behind other activities. A poll in the north-west found that only 2 per cent had skated in the previous 12 months, while the figure for swimming was 15 per cent.

The explanation may be not



Ice-cool: Danielle Hunt, aged 10, and 13-year-old Simon Savva set the pace with a graceful demonstration at the Lee Valley Ice Centre in east London

that the demand is absent but that it is frustrated, given only 24 ice rinks and between 800 and 900 indoor swimming pools. Certainly ice skating was near the top of the list of sports people wanted to take up, given the opportunity. If Torvill and Dean had grown up not in Nottingham, which has an ice rink, but in Cornwall, more than a hundred miles from one, they would probably never have become skaters.

And yet ice skating can put up a very strong case. On a strictly commercial basis, there is no reason why it should not pay its way. Rinks can easily attract half a million people a year and make healthy profits. The Lee Valley Ice Centre, not an easy place to reach unless you have a car, is getting 20,000 skaters a week, well above the 10,000-12,000 budgeted for.

Ice skating can also claim to be one of the few sports that appeals as much to women as men. The Sports Council estimates that overall women skaters outnumber men by six to four, whereas in badminton, tennis or squash the balance is more like 70-30 in favour of men.

More remarkable, perhaps, is the appeal of ice skating across the range of income groups. According to the Sports Council again, more than 60 per cent of skaters come from the ranks of skilled and semi-skilled manual workers. That cannot be said of the average squash or badminton club.

Janet Thompson recalls a recent radio discussion from Oxford about the millions being spent on the city's new ice rink and the rather smaller sum offered to the football club. "I just thought of the difference between the two sports. Football is played by men and mainly watched by men. How many grannies do you get at football grounds? And yet look over there."

Ice skating, finally, is one of the most convenient of sports. It can be enjoyed throughout the year, irrespective of the weather. There is no need to join a club or be part of a team. Beyond the boots and skates themselves, there is no need for special equipment.

Even the cost is not exorbitant. The really keen skater who wants his or her own boots/skates can pay £150 and more, but most people are content to hire or to buy secondhand for a few pounds. A public session on a rink, including hire of skates, can be less than £2.

The Lee Valley Ice Centre is a £2.6m project undertaken by the Lee Valley Park Authority, run by a consortium of local authorities, and the Sports Council. The council put up £1m of the money in an attempt to encourage similar initiatives and the point seems to have been taken, for this year new rinks are due to open at Telford, Oxford and Gillingham, with Swindon following in 1985.

There are also plans, in various stages of maturity, to build new rinks at Brighton, Crawley, Guildford, Greenwich, Chelmsford, Norwich, St Albans, Portsmouth, Slough, Bracknell, Basingstoke, Torquay and Cardiff, to mention only those in the south.

Britain may continue to produce its Currys and Cousins and Torvills and Deans, but perhaps one day they will not have to get up in the small hours to fight for ice time or be forced to train abroad because we cannot offer the facilities to match their talent.

ENGLAND
Altrincham: Ice Rink, Devonshire Road, Altrincham, Cheshire (061 928 1360); Billingham: Forum, Town Centre, Billingham-on-Tees (0642 554449); Birmingham: Silver Blades, Pershore Street, Birmingham B5 0ET (021 222 4325); Blackpool: Ice Dome, South Shore, Blackpool (0253 41707); Bournemouth: Westover Ice Rink, Westover Road, Bournemouth (0202 28111); Bradford: Silver Blades, Little Horton Lane, Bradford 5 (0274 33535); Bristol: Silver Blades, Frogmore Street, Bristol 1 (0272 292148); Durham: Ice Rink, Durham City (0385 64065); Grimsby: Leisure Centre, Crownwell Road, South Humberside (0472 74653); Liverpool: Silver

Blades, Prescott Road, Liverpool 7 (051 263 1990); London: Lee Valley Ice Centre, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton E10 (533 3151); Queens Ice Skating Club, Queensway W2 (229 0172); Richmond Ice Rink, Clevedon Road, East Twickenham (892 3845); Sobell Centre, Hornsey Road N7 (607 1632); Streatham Ice Rink, 386 Streatham High Street, SW16 (769 7861); Nottingham: Ice Stadium, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham (0502 51938); Peterborough: East of England Ice Rink, Mallard Road, Bretton, Peterborough (0733 260222); Sheffield: Silver Blades, Queen's Road, Sheffield 2 (0742 23037); Solihull Ice Rink, Hobs Moat Road, Solihull, Warwickshire (021 742 4315); Southampton: Top Rank Ice

Rink, Archers Road, Southampton (0703 26043); Sunderland: Crowtree Leisure Centre, Crowtree Road, Sunderland (0763 42511); Sutton-in-Ashfield: Sutton Recreation Centre, High Pavement, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts (0623 554554); Whitby Bay: Ice Rink, Hill Heads Road, Whitby Bay (0632 526240).

SCOTLAND
Aberdeen: Donald Ice Rink, Spring Garden, Aberdeen (0224 638550); Aviemore: Highland Tourist Centre, Inverness-shire (0479 810671); Ayr: Ice Rink, 8 Limekiln Road, Ayr (0292 283024); Dundee: Angus Ice Rink, Kingsway West, Dundee (0332 85222); Edinburgh: Murrayfield, Riverdale Crescent, Edinburgh 12 (031 337 8933); Glasgow: Ice Rink, Crossmylochan, Glasgow S1 (041 423 3083); Hamilton: Lanarkshire Ice Rink (0698 262448); Inverness: Bught Park (0463 35711); Irvine: Magnum Leisure Centre, Irvine, Ayrshire (0294 78381); Kelso: Border Ice Rink (057 32 2774); Kirkcaldy: Ice Rink, Rosslyn Street, Kirkcaldy (0592 52151); Lockerbie: Ice Rink, Glasgow Road, Lockerbie (057 62 2197); Perth: Central Scotland Ice Rink, Dunkeld Road, Perth (0738 24188); Stirling: Williamsfield, Stirling (0786 64153).

WALES
Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road East, Queensferry, Chwyd (2044 812311).

Britannia rules the rinks

We can take justifiable pride in kinship with Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, world and Olympic ice dance champions extraordinary. But they are only the glittering tip of a substantial iceberg. The influence of Britain worldwide is such that nine of the 19 couples who contested the Olympic championship in Sarajevo last month were either trained by Britons or subject to British consultancy.

All this is a natural concomitant to Britain's place in the history of this branch of the ice skating sport. Apart from a strong Russian influence in the 1970s, this country has largely led the way.

One British professional, Bobby Thompson, was responsible for no fewer than four of those 19 couples at Sarajevo, from four different countries - Britain, Japan, Czechoslovakia and, the particular feather in his cap, the United States. The American champions, Blumberg and Seibert, were, remarkably enough, bequeathed to him by yet another British trainer, Doreen McSalika, now established in Colorado. Mrs McSalika, as Miss Denny, had won two titles at the side of Courtney Jones, recently a strong influence on Torvill and Dean, in 1959 and 1960. Like so many Britons, she left to spread the gospel of ice dance to foreign fields.

Lawrence Denny, the chairman of the ice dance committee of the International Skating Union and therefore its dominating voice, won the world title for five years in succession from 1951, in the company of Jean Westwood, who then took her talents to Canada.

After four years of Czechoslovak success, when Roman and Romanova brought modern music to bear in contrast to the stylized organ offerings of previous years, another British couple, Bernard Ford and Diane Towler, opened up a new field with dazzling footwork to



Tip of the iceberg: Champions, now encouraging new talent, Westwood and Denny (top left), Denny and Jones (top right), Towler and Ford (bottom left), and Torvill and Dean

supplement more formal dance movement. They, too, later turned to teaching, Ford now expanding the potential of the present Canadian champions.

British trainers, indeed, are now in huge demand, particularly in Italy, Germany, Hungary, Canada and the United States. They are mostly former skaters of distinction, but Betty Callaway, the mentor of Torvill and Dean, stands a little apart. She became a professional show skater at a tender age and is now more of a consultant in general terms, taking an individual couple under her wing from time to time rather than setting up a school. During the 1970s it was she who produced a German couple to wrest the European title from the Sovi-

Union; again, it was she who produced a Hungarian couple to end the Russian sequence of world championship victories in 1980. Torvill and Dean have added to her reputation since then by outclassing all challengers with towering authority and stunning originality of approach.

And yet the immediate outlook for Britain is unpromising. With the retirement of Torvill and Dean, and Blumberg and Seibert, there is a clear opening for Karen Barber and Nicky Slater. But it relies on a large premise - that they can find a free dance programme to follow their hugely successful Chaplin routine in Ottawa.

John Hennessy

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JESUS

the evidence

A LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION PRODUCTION FOR CHANNEL 4

I do not in the least mind sharing my dentist with you. Nor my shirt-maker, if you insist. But I am not entirely happy when it comes to giving you the address of my friends James and Celia Milnes Gaskell, who live in Nevis.

If this sounds rather stuffy, perhaps you will allow me a parable: "Humphrey Eglantine Pembroke was not quite as long as his name, but like most West Country boys was hanging on to his age. The beginning of *Wings on a Ride*, the odyssey of a young Nevisian, by Robert Abrahams. The story tells how Humphrey, whose father has left his village to seek his fortune by driving a red London bus, sets off to join his parent. But when he reaches the London area, he is situated below the 2323rd Peak of Nevis, and that all he will need to get there are his own spindly legs and a donkey called Lord Nelson... and I am as reluctant to tell you whether he makes it as I am to divulge the Mines Gaskell's address. The happiest endings are the best.

are most we engineer ourselves.
I was last in Nevis in 1976, at
a time when a single road
circumnavigated the island for
21.5 miles, and the island's
population was about 14,000.
The pot-holes are still there, but
the population has fallen to
9,000, many of the inhabitants
having gone to seek fortunes in
London, San Juan, New York.
For there is not much to do in
Nevis. Once there was sugar,
but the sole reminders of those
dark satanic yesteryears are
truncated mill chimneys,
silhouetted like decayed
molars against a chlorophyll
background.

Nevisians survive on fishing, agriculture and postal-orders from relatives driving those red London buses. There are snags,

of course: indigenous West Indians derive from a slave culture whose wounds, thanks to the sins of our fathers, went deep. So deep that agriculture still holds unpleasant associations. As for the postal-orders, Nevisians are proud, even if it is accepted that charity begins at home.

You might think that where fish swim in the sea and vitamin-packed food hangs on trees, no one will starve yet it is a melancholy truth that man cannot live by breadfruit alone. Tourism was invented, which brings in money to my chums the Milnes Gaskells.

Twenty years ago James MG bought Montpelier Plantation, 100 acres of rock-strewn soil and a ruined sugar mill situated in the parish of St John Fig Tree. He reconstructed the Great House, built several cottages, a swimming pool, a tennis court, a croquet ground with hibiscus, headache plants, powder puff plants; and, with bewildering vagueness, opened as an hotel.

Well, a sort of hotel. Nevils has that self-protecting quality of attracting the right sort, repelling the wrong sort. I married Fanny Nisbet too, on March 11, 1887, married her sister Horatio at Mount Vernon, the same place as the Fir Tree Church, down the road. It repels the sort who are kept alive by regular infusions of distraction: telly, newspapers, telephone, wireless, "folkloric" entertainments, steel-bands and mass-melancholy, and keeps off one of these. The sort who arrive despite such appalling deprivations, rejoicing maybe that it is a moon-shoot away from Threadneedle Street. Let me be less negative, by explaining what *I did* do on this

return visit. Montpelier preaches hard, isolated, and by breezes—so I called on Mr Powell to hire a Mini Moke. In it I drove through the capital town of Charlestown, from one end to the other in 97 seconds, dodging cars and trucks in the traffic on Street. While I sped through in this reckless fashion, you might have loitered, visiting the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton, who became Secretary of the Treasury after the American Revolution. You might have paused at the Supreme Court, a place of rough benches where rough justice was once dispensed; as in the case of Edward Huggins, tried for flogging 32 slaves—365 lashes to one man, 365 to another. You might have acquired by jury in 1817, this year you would have found only four cases in six months.

The stopped clock which marks the Queen's visit

You would surely have admired the Customs House in all its gingerbread glory, from where you could have motored on to Pinney's beach to view a half mile of white sand, named after Azzariah Pinney, pardoned for his part in the Monmouth Rebellion.

My destination was Morningstar, home of Bob Abrahams, author of *Humphrey's Ride* and founder of the Nelson Museum, containing such curios as letters penned by a wobbly left hand, after Nelson's right arm had been amputated. When the Nelsons visited the collection Bob opened his clockwork quarters to three it was, saying that it would not pronounce the time again until Her Majesty returned. A quixotic gesture, as unrelated to the outside world as beewees, the local currency,

On Nevis mothers-to-be entreat: "Make me a clear baby, doctor dear" (deliver me a pale skinned child). Dr Platter had heard this countless times; he told me so as we sat beneath his favourite banyan tree, drinking rum, listening to a pastoral symphony of tree-frogs.

On another day I went, with the greatest reluctance, to view the golf-course, created since my last visit. I found the outing less depressing than I expected, since it has only three holes and no one was playing. I saw no one play during my entire stay.

so with luck it won't catch on and the shaven trio of fairways will more sensibly revert to nature.

Reassured, I drove to St. George's Gingerland, where I read on the notice-board that \$2,379, between dollars, had been raised by the church bazaar, a lot of money for a poor congregation, from an agricultural community whose best crop, it is said, is children. Twelve to thirteen children in a family is not unusual. There is poverty, Dr. Platzer treats cases of malnutrition; yet there is no crushing sense of want or envy. There is dilapidation, with no sense of seediness.

On Sunday I attended eucharist at Fig Tree Church, with its simple messages of fire and brimstone, damnation or salvation. There were confections of hats, many decorated with feathers and bright berries. Sudden hymnal gusts seemed to lift the corrugated tin roof, as if the hand of God had touched His house in the shadow of the Peak of Nevis.

Church over, I went lobster-diving with Mike Seymour. Mike went through Vietnam and it convinced him that his home town in Wisconsin could get along without him. Exchanging army fatigues for sawn-off jeans, he came to Nevis, married a 19-year-old Nevisian, one of 20 children and became a fisherman. His fiercest ambition is to buy his own boat. It would cost \$5,000, which he knows he could never raise.

At Montpelier there are no mechanical sounds, just the catarrhal clunk of donkeys and a wind that seldom dies, in a storm someone put on Brahms's Symphony No 3 and it was fitting. The library is full of Bertie Wooster and Woody Allen and there is couch chowder, lobster paupiettes, passion-fruit ice-cream for dinner, served by candlelight around a table for 20 or so, a house-party atmosphere.

If, when I return, you are all sleeping in my cottage at Montpelier, I shall island-hop to Monserrat, 20 minutes by air - where I shall be more than happy to see other friends, Cedric and Carol Osborne, who own Vue Pointe Hotel.

Montserrat is distractingly beautiful. It is a British colony with a real live Governor.



David Dale, who, on the Queen's official birthday, has a cocktail party on the lawn at Government House, British, yet Irish too; "Emerald Isle of the Caribbean." "The way the Caribbean used to be," read twin slogans. The first refers to Anglo-Irish settlers who fled religious persecution on St Kitts in 1632, while the second is a claim that the island has remained untouched, unsophisticated, her virtues unsmug.

"Unsophisticated": I'd go along with judging by the blackboard message outside a shop: "Just received - ladies underwear." Charles Mercer's supermarket had vast deposits

of Marmite and Ribena, but no fresh veg. "Goat-wash" is the name of a dish, an apt enough description; and "bam-chick-lay chiga, foot maya" is the local dance, robustly unsophisticated as an Irish jig. At Plymouth market the O'Briens, Ryans, Galloways and Rileys smile huge water-melon smiles, and a carved shamrock adorns the gable of Government House.

"Untouched"? Plymouth, the capital, seems, after London, to have the least of the American influence palpable. The Union Jack flutters from flag-poles, yet its shadows are of the Stars and

British Airways fly London-Antigua: £1,878 first class return. Low season APEX (Oct 1 to Dec 7 and 25 Dec to Oct 1) £375. High season APEX (July 1 to Sept 30 and Dec 8 to Dec 24) £440. Carib Aviation, Antigua-Nevis: £48. Montserrat Aviation, Nevis-Montserrat-£25. Montserrat-Antigua: £18. Mini Moke in Nevis: £18 per day. Taxis in the Islands are expensive, i.e. £17 for a 30-minute run. Montpellier Plantation Inn, Nevis:

Stripes. When it is winter in Oregon and Saskatchewan, rich "snow-birds" migrate to Montserrat, rolling up the shutters of their villas, plugging in their swimming pool filters, fertilizing their friendships in hearty Martini rites at sundown.

The island measures seven miles by 11 of mountain lushness, planted with sea island cotton, sweet potatoes, mammie apples, soursops and christophenes; and the beaches are of black sand. The Montserrat House of Parliament still doubles as a hurricane shelter: there are still two speeds of personal propulsion: slow and

stop. But there are signs of acceleration. There is talk of extending the runway to accommodate jet-liners; there is talk, more subversive, of a casino. Nevils heeds a warning - it hangs in Charlestown's police station - which Monserrat might consider: "20 mph = good driving; 30 mph = happy driving; 50 mph = Lord, I'm coming home."

Straining across a pretty Montserratian girl's bow front was the T-shirt declaration: "I survived culture". Which must be a comfort to her loved ones. A casino, on the other hand, could be terminal.

Dec 15-Apr 15 double room, breakfast and dinner £104 a day plus 10 per cent service and 7 per cent tax, bookable through: Speedbird, 152 King Street, London W6 (01-741 8041) or Kuoni Travel, Kuoni House, Dorking, Surrey (0306 885044). Vue Points

Hotel, PO Box 65, Monserrat, West Indies; Winter £111 double per day inc. breakfast and dinner; summer £89 plus 10 per cent service and 7 per cent tax. Dining out at more reliable restaurants about £12 a head before drinks; bar drinks £2.

A *Motoring Guide to Nevis* by Janet Cotner at £2.70 is useful. Penguin Travel Guides *The Caribbean, Bermuda and the Bahamas* provide reliable thumbnail sketches of these islands.

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also on page 13

The sleepy Alps wake up with an open jaw



Getting up steam: The ferry station on Galata Bridge, Istanbul

Thanks to a surplus of airline seats Europe remains a buyer's market this summer. But remember that the best buys will be either side of peak times - May, June and mid-September - to the end of October. Owing to the late Easter most holiday flights are already booked out during April.

We can expect the low-cost scheduled flight specialists to take an even bigger share of the market with their "consolidation" fares. These operators book blocks of seats on the scheduled flights which are then sold to individuals at prices lower than the airlines themselves can charge. The two largest agents in consolidation fares are Slade and Falcon who cover most European destinations between them. But there are at least two dozen smaller operators specializing in individual countries.

Some have gone a step further this year, not only offering better-value fares but also by throwing in extras like discounted car hire, free flight bags and half-price train tickets to the departure airport.

Britain's mushrooming charter industry is set for another busy season thanks to liberal regulations enabling operators to market seat-only fares. There is a large selection of flights to choose from, with most going to the sunspots, France remains an exception because of French government restrictions on charter flights. The main advantage of charter flights, besides the price, is that they operate from the regional airports as well as those in the London area.

Scheduled flights

Besides the standard fares there are no good deals by air to the popular short haul destinations of Amsterdam and Paris. Cheapest excursion (PEX) fares to Amsterdam range from £87 to £104, those to Paris from £71 to £106. Fares are valid with any airline.

Surprisingly some of the better buys this summer will be to Switzerland and Austria. These previously sleepy destinations as regards air fares have sprung into life recently.

You can now fly to Geneva or Zurich for little more than to Paris. For example, London-based City by City Tours sells consolidation fares to Geneva from Gatwick with British Caledonian at prices from £90 return. Flights with Swissair

from Heathrow start at £96 for Geneva, £103 for Zurich and £93 for Basel. With Don Air prices start at £97 to Zurich and £104 to the Swiss capital of Bern.

You can fly from the provinces at bargain rates, for example Manchester to Geneva or Zurich for £119 return. In fact from Aberdeen in the north to Southampton in the south you can fly to Zurich at prices ranging from £119 to £179.

As in olden times Switzerland is becoming increasingly popular as a transit country for areas of France, Austria, Germany and Italy. Seasoned travellers bound for northern Italy prefer Swiss gateways because of their strike-free record.

Austro Tours of St Albans is selling return fares with Austrian Airlines at prices well below the regular APEX (Advance purchase excursion) fare. Vienna costs £137, Salzburg £104, Klagenfurt £137 and Graz £124. Prices increase by £30 between July and September. One particular advantage of Austro's fares is the "open jaw" facility enabling you to fly to one Austrian city and return from another.

Whereas scheduled flights to Spain and Greece are more costly than charters in the high season, those to Italy are not, especially if you are heading for one of the cities. The Italian agent CIT sells return fares with Alitalia or BA at little more

than charter prices. Examples: Pisa and Bologna for £130; Milan, Genoa and Turin, £123; Rome, £133; Venice, £132; Naples, £143. Higher fares July to September.

Bearing in mind the distance, fares to Turkey are also remarkable value. London's Golden Horn Travel is selling flights with Turkish Airlines to Istanbul for £170, Izmir £180 and Antalya for £185. For an extra £30 you can fly out to Istanbul and return from Izmir or Antalya.

There are no charters and only a limited selection of scheduled flight deals to the Eastern Bloc countries. Some examples: Falcon is selling Prague for £158, Bucharest from £134 to £204 and Moscow from £180 to £231. Slade offers Dubrovnik for £177, Sofia for £139, and Warsaw for £180.

Charter flights

There is a huge choice and range of prices especially to the sunshine destinations where seats are sold off by the large tour operators, under the names of Thomson Airfares, Cosmos Cheapies and Air Europe Travel, for example. The price you pay depends on the departure airport, day and time of travel and even when you book. Some operators throw in little extras such as half-price rail travel and cut-price car hire. When costing the final price remember to allow another £11

or so for airport taxes. Some, but not all, operators include these in the fare.

Flights to destinations in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and parts of Italy operate year round on a quasi-scheduled basis with more stable pricing. To Geneva/Zurich frequent flights sold by Swiss Airfares start at £75 return. CIT's regular flights are the cheapest way to fly to Germany and return fares are Dusseldorf-£84; Frankfurt, £83; Hamburg, Hanover and Stuttgart, all £84; Berlin and Munich, both £99.

Pegasus's Skybus series of regular flights covers Vienna from £99 and all major Italian destinations including some not served by scheduled services. For example, Rimini from £89; Verona from £84; Palermo, Catania, Lamezia and Brindisi, all £119.

The current trend towards late booking has been heavily discounted close to departure time as operators scramble to unload seats at any price they can get. These knockdown seats are marketed by charter flight brokers who advertise their wares in the classified pages of the local and national press.

Agents: City by City 01-739 7885; Austro Tours, St Albans 08191; CIT 01-588 5533; Golden Horn 01-434 1962; Falcon 01-221 6298; Slade 01-202 011; Swiss Airfares 01-538 6751; CIT 01-528 2472; Pegasus 01-370 6851.

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also on page 32

DRINK

A lively mix to match the mood of spring

April is an excellent time to try a variety of both red and white wines ahead of the warm sunny days ahead (we hope) stir the appetite for chilled wines. This opportunity to treat the palate while bridging the gap between winter and summer should not be missed.

Some wines match the mood of spring and of all the white wine grape varieties, it is the lively green Sauvignon that seems to me the most spring-like in style. One of the most vibrant wines made from this variety that I have encountered recently is Harvey's excellent '82 Sauvignon de St Bris, which comes from one of those odd VDQS pocket-handkerchief sized regions not far from Chablis.

This Sauvignon is a classic example of its grape variety, with a lovely fresh, green bouquet and strong, pungent, grassy-green taste and finish. It is worth every penny of its £3.34. (John Harvey & Sons, 27 Pall Mall, London SW1, and 12 Denmark Street, Bristol.)

Another Sauvignon that makes an excellent April wine is Robert Corbier's '82 Reuilly. Sauvignon wines from this central part of the Loire tend to get rather overshadowed by those popular red wines of Sancerre and Pouilly-Fume.

Meursault on offer - an '80 Chateau de Meursault, Domaine du Chateau de Meursault (£4.45), which comes under the umbrella of that enterprising Nuits-St-Georges merchant, Andre Boisset. This Meursault has a rich golden colour plus a buttery-oaky bouquet and taste, while its high alcohol content and high extract make it almost Californian in style.

After last week's article on Chianti, it was good to taste the latest vintage of Count Ugo Contini Bonacossi's Tenuta di Capezzana. The wine comes from Carmignano which, although technically part of the Chianti district, has its own DOC with stricter quality regulations than those of Chianti and which allow a proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon to be included.

The count's '81 Tenuta has about 10 years of age in its mix, and it shows. So it is not surprising to learn that he considers the Cabernet Sauvignon grape "for us absolutely the best" and to discover that he was a prime mover in getting Carmignano recognized as a separate DOC independent of Chianti.

His '81 Tenuta has a medium-purple colour, a fine, fruity bouquet and a full, deep

robust taste. It is still rather young and sturdy but should soon come round, and priced at £3.39 (Peter Dominici) it is an inexpensive way of tasting a new-wave Tuscan red.

Another warming red wine for a cool April day is the Vinea Lanciano Gran Reserva '73, a mature Rioja from one of the most modern Rioja bodegas, Bodegas Lan. This Gran Reserva is in fact the flagship of the Lan range and lives up to its reputation with its mature, pale garnet colour and fine, strong oaky-smoky nose and taste, coupled with a fine, almost tarry finish. (John Harvey & Sons, £4.26.)

Finally, as it is spring, splash out on a very fine claret from an excellent year. Peter Sichel's '78 Chateau d'Angludet (John Harvey & Sons, £7.29). This Margaux property is easily of classed growth standard now that Peter Sichel has restored it. Incidentally, Mr Sichel reckons that it was only from 1978 onwards, after 18 years at d'Angludet, that the property reached maturity. "This wine, with its deep purple colour, rich, grassy smell and soft, smoky, cigarbox taste, is as complex and elegant as any claret connoisseur could want."

Jane MacQuitty

HEDGEWATCH: A competition for young conservationists

Is there an old interesting hedgerow near you? We invite you, younger readers to spend part of their Easter holidays exploring the countryside.

Can you find a stretch of hedge with a variety of trees and shrubs that looks as if it has been there for a very long time? What species can you find growing in it? How old do you think it is, and why was it planted? Can you spot any birds or animals in it? Is it useful?

Ideally, you should take a 30-yard stretch. Make a drawing of the hedge, the plants and any wildlife you can find in it. Then, in not more than 250 words, describe the hedge and its history. To help you, we asked an artist, Robin Jacques, whose drawing appears here, to depict some of the most common elements found in a hedge. But remember, do not trespass on land, and do not damage wild plants or crops. There are plenty of hedgerows beside roads and footpaths.

There are two categories for children aged 7 to 11, and for those aged 12 to 16. Prizes of £50 will be awarded to the winner and £25 to the runner-up in each category. Do not



Forget to include your full name, address and age. Closing date is Friday, May 4. Send your entries to Hedgerows, The Times, 12 Collyer Street, London, WC99 9LT.

Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and their families are ineligible. The Times reserves the right to publish

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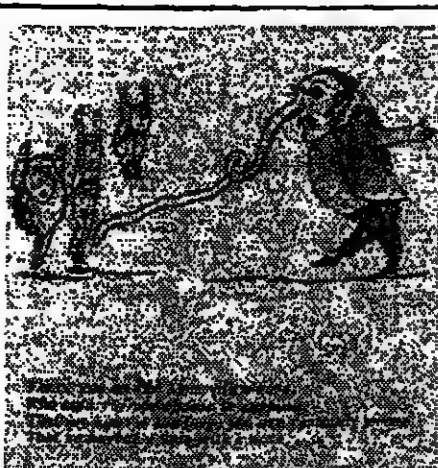
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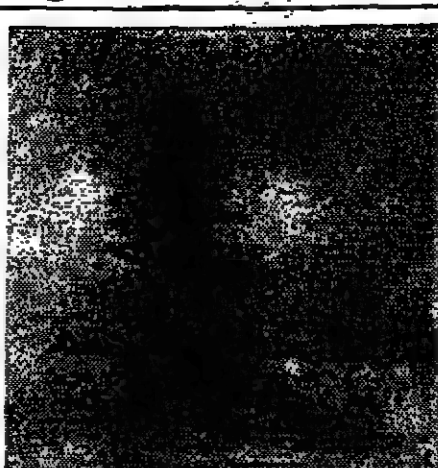
VALUES. Down on how to live with a plethora of stylish new and antique designs



One of six cats, £3.80, by Florian Studios for Ceramic Tile Design



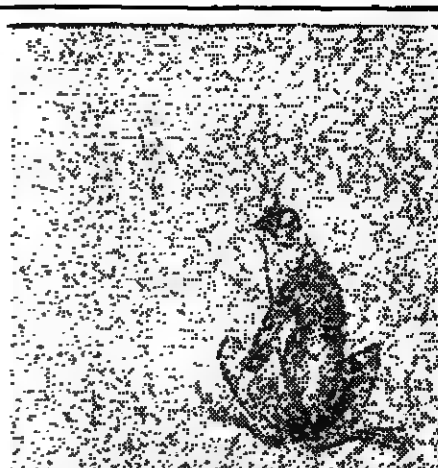
One of 14 Edward Lear limericks, £3.80 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Moonscape by Kenneth Clark, £7.30 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Picture tile by Christina Sheppard, £5.20 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Hand-painted frog by Jennifer Scott, £6.50 (Ceramic Tile Design)



One of four Provencal figures, £3, exclusive to Ceramic Tile Design

Every night and day on the tiles

It has taken the British a long time to tile with style. Our Victorian and Art Nouveau tiles were as elaborate and colourful as anything the Italians and Spanish produced. Yet for years modern manufacturers worked on the principle that we could have anything we liked as long as it was white, or offered us dud avocado that did not quite match the bath. Now the choice is so wide it has become confusing.

Tiles, like fabric, look quite different en masse than on a couple of square feet of swag board in the average showroom, and to give customers a chance to see tiles in settings they can relate to their own houses, Paul Portelli of World's End Tiles has opened a huge new showroom in Battersea.

He has fitted a hangar-sized warehouse at the British Rail Yard, Silverthorne Road, London SW8, with rows of all kinds and colours, from a holiday-poster-blue swimming pool scene and a cool grey marble temple to a Victorian bathroom with a bottle-green tiled dado. There are elegantly restrained Delft designs, mass-produced at reasonable prices (£15.53 a square yard) and murals individually designed to order. You can even have tiles designed with your own crest or logo.

Most versatile of all the modern designs

are World's End Tiles' own range of British-made tiles which they screen-print themselves in a studio behind the showroom. They have a stock red range in stripes, squares, grids, dots and borders and a multi-range in primary or pastel colours in tulips, dots, diamonds and stripes.

All these will mix and match in whatever quantity you choose, so you can be as flamboyant or as restrained as you wish. Using a simple coloured border as a picture-rail effect, or as a panel with plain white tiles and a white bath, is a much newer look than fancy-coloured suites. It is also much cheaper because you are not using so many patterned tiles. Prices are from £17.25 a square yard.

New, too, is a range of almost indestructible floor tiles by Montreal, called Granito. Instead of having a glaze, which eventually wears off, these are polished with a carborundum stone, and are so resistant to scratches, stains and frost that they are being used at airports and similar places. They come in attractively muted granite effects and would be suitable for domestic use indoors or out. Granito tiles cost from £17.25 a square yard, plus the cost of polishing.

Anyone restoring an old house may be interested in some reproduction tiles made from original nineteenth and early twentieth-century moulds found at the Maws tile works at Ironbridge, Shropshire. They had simply been left behind locked doors, stacked on their racks and still bearing stock cards dated 1922.

They now belong to Jackfield Works Ironbridge, the most complete Victorian tile works in the country, which in January

set up a commercial company to reproduce some of the original designs and to restore period tiling.

Among the original designs they are reproducing are two panels of tiles to fit old, cast-iron fireplaces. One panel is of foxgloves and flowers and the other of birds. They can be produced in colours to suit the customer's decor. Simple colours cost from £17.25 to £23 per panel of four tiles; special colours cost more. Telephone 0952 882030 for more details.

Jackfield's reproduction tiles are on display at World's End Tiles (open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and until noon on Saturday). Many of the modern stock designs sold by World's End Tiles are also available outside London; ask for a brochure and list of stockists (01-720 8358).

Fulham is another fruitful hunting ground for tile fanciers, and one of the most enterprising specialists is Ceramic Tile Design at 56 Dawes Road, London SW10 (01-381 1455), where Christopher Crewe-Read sets out to "get anything for anybody—and in a hurry".

His light, bright corner showroom has an impressive selection. You will find everything from the "interior decorator" style, with elegantly simple lines and borders, to "artist-potter", hand-painted tiles and traditional French and Italian designs.

Here again restorers are in luck, for there is a range of excellent reproduction period tiles of such good quality that few people would be able to tell them from the originals. For those looking for something exclusive there is a striking range of

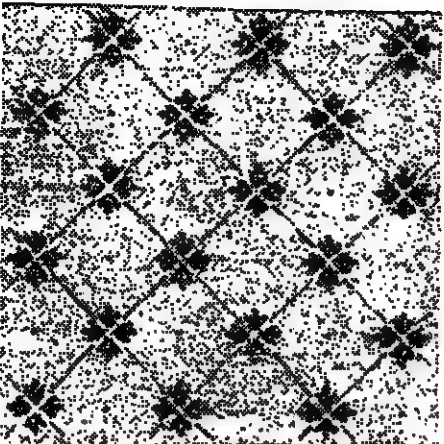
Turkish tiles imported by Melissa Ferguson, who shares the premises.

All the designs come from mosques and can be used decoratively in groups or made into traditional panels. They are available from stock in a screen print at £25.50 a square yard, or 71p per tile, hand-painted tiles in the same designs, but with a much greater depth of colour, are available to order. These are £3.63 each, and a panel 8ft by 3ft would cost from £300. The shop is open until 7pm on Tuesdays.

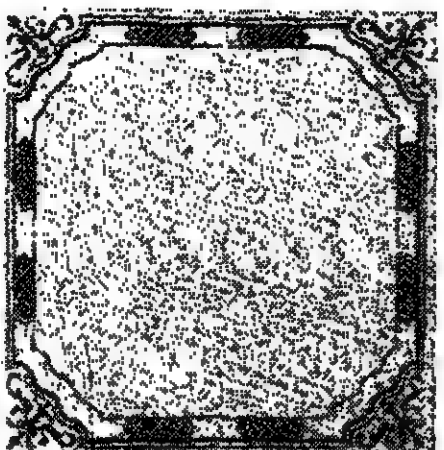
In the mass-produced market, H. & R. Johnson, who produce Cristal tiles, now coordinate their colours with sanitaryware manufacturers and also produce a range of plain tiles to match the new Dulux paints—white with a faint tinge of colour. They are 32p each to order from John Lewis stores.

Other useful addresses: Rye Tiles, 12 Connaught Street, London W2 (01-723 7278) and The Old Brewery, Wish Ward, Rye, Sussex, (0797 233038), have a special range to match Colefax and Fowler fabrics. Townsends, 1 Church Street, London NW8 (01-724 3746) have one of the largest stocks of period tiles in the country. Domus, 266 Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-589 9457) have one of the largest ranges of plain Italian tiles offering about 80 colours.

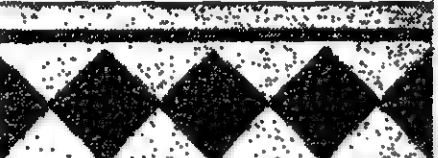
Turkish screen print, £25.50sq yd (Melissa Ferguson)



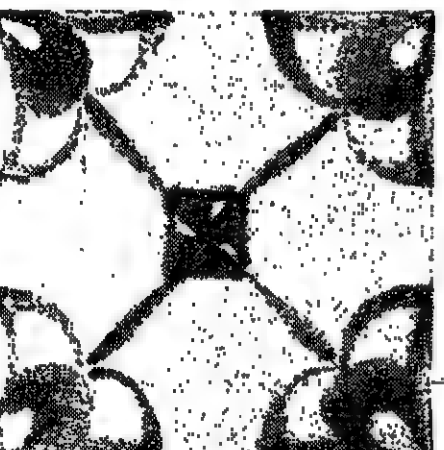
Delft Flanders, £15.53sq yd (World's End Tiles)



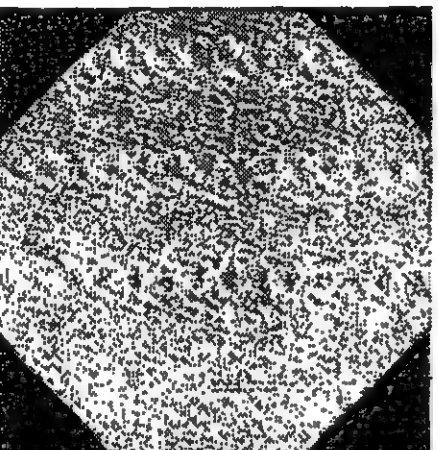
Delft Antwerp Plain, £15.53sq yd (World's End Tiles)



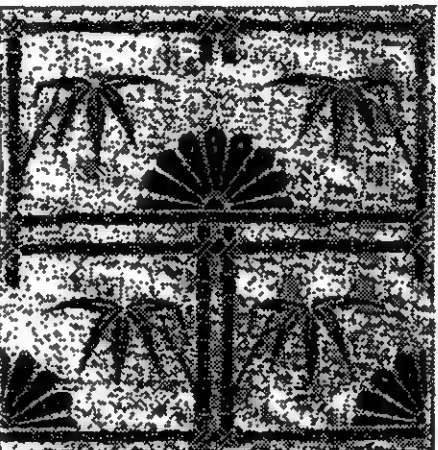
Border (tile below), £4.60, 7 1/4 in x 3 1/4 in



Trellis in Blue by Alan Caiger Smith, £2.50 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Conti Rosso 7 1/4 in square, £28.75 sq yd (World's End Tiles)



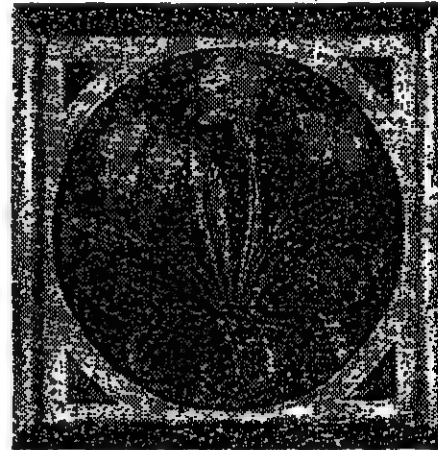
Palm, 7 1/4 in square, £31.63sq yd (World's End Tiles)



Victorian reproduction, Cherry Blossom, £2.30 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Victorian white grape reproduction, £5.18 (World's End Tiles)



Primrose tile from a nineteenth-century mould, £4 (Jackfield Tiles)

Drawings by Jill Field



Putting all your eggs in one basket is not such a bad idea for Easter. A service called Baskets with Love has several seasonal specialties which it can deliver in central London or send by post anywhere in the country. Prices for baskets start at £2.50, but the most delicious ones are considerably more. The Mad Hatter's Picnic includes hot cross-buns, cheese, fruit, jam, a bottle of wine and a corkcreeper for £20, and a Chic Chick includes a bottle of champagne, chocolate truffle eggs and a fluffy chicken for £26 (no postal service on this one). Postage is £3.50 extra, hand delivery from £2.50 according to distance.

For other occasions they can make up baskets to your instructions from £10—this would include a mini-birthday cake, some chocolates and silk flowers—and there is a brochure of their standard, year-round baskets. For more details contact Baskets with Love, 38 Lower Richmond Road, London SW14 (01-878 7201). If you are visiting friends or relations at Easter and want a spectacular present to take to your hosts, Marks & Spencer have

some superb oriental hybrid lilies. The one on my desk is 18in tall, has five fine speckled pink blooms and three more buds still to open; £3.99 at most branches from today. Easter novelties for children are often made of very poor quality chocolate. The one we have tasted and liked best in this office is the 7in milk chocolate bunny (illustrated right), £1.05, by Thorntons, who also do the named egg shown. The latter comes boxed with a selection of Continental chocolates at £5.49. They have branches at 82 Marylebone High Street, London W1 and the Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 and throughout the country. We also liked the Marks & Spencer pack of five milk chocolate bunnies, made in Israel, for 69p, although the rabbit image is only on the foil wrapping; the actual chocolate is more mummy-shaped. Boots have a chocolate rabbit for diabetics, £2.15p. At Liberty the favourites were the small novelties (right), 10p each.

and a bunny gift pack containing a tin rabbit and six small shapes, £1.85, all by Fricidel of West Germany. To make any gift appropriate to the season Liberty also have the 3 1/2in painted cardboard egg shown (70p), with larger versions at £1.10 and £1.50. For collectors, the Heston Dey's twelfth Biston enamelled egg is particularly pretty this year, decorated with panels of British birds, beautifully drawn and coloured (left). It costs £24.50 from Heston Dey's, 14 Brook Street, London W1 (01-629 8811). Crumblies have a range of enamelled eggs, too. My favourites are the small ones which include a charming design of butterflies and cowslips, £16.50, from Those Goodies, South Audley Street, London W1. For those who prefer a more traditional selection of colours, Liberty's 1 1/2in Davies Maws, London W1, have some very covetable Easter presents. Stockspring, stand J23, have a Chamberlaine Worcester egg-cup holder and three cups in blue and gold, circa 1810 (£25).

Anthony Gray, stand H26, has a small egg-shaped scent bottle, half Bristol blue glass and half silver, 2 1/2in long (£25). On stand H25 you will find two porcelain eggs: the Gammart Art Deco one, blue with a black and white border, 4in high, costs £75; the English one, gold with a blue goose, circa 1880, 4in high, is £95. All these are illustrated, left.

Even if you are not in the market for a one-off antique, Gray's is good browsing ground, and you might care to look at the hand-painted wooden eggs at £13 each on Brian and Lynn Holmes's stand 304. They are modern but exquisitely painted, and there are plenty of designs to choose from. The owl, right, is one. Finally, if you want to see an artist actually at work, Timothy James will be in Liberty's One-off department. In the basement, hand-painting blown eggs at £5.50 each, from noon to 8pm on Thurs, Fri and Apr 14. One of his designs, on a metallic blue ground, is illustrated right. A selection of colours will be available during the demonstrations, when initials may also be incorporated if time permits.

B.D.

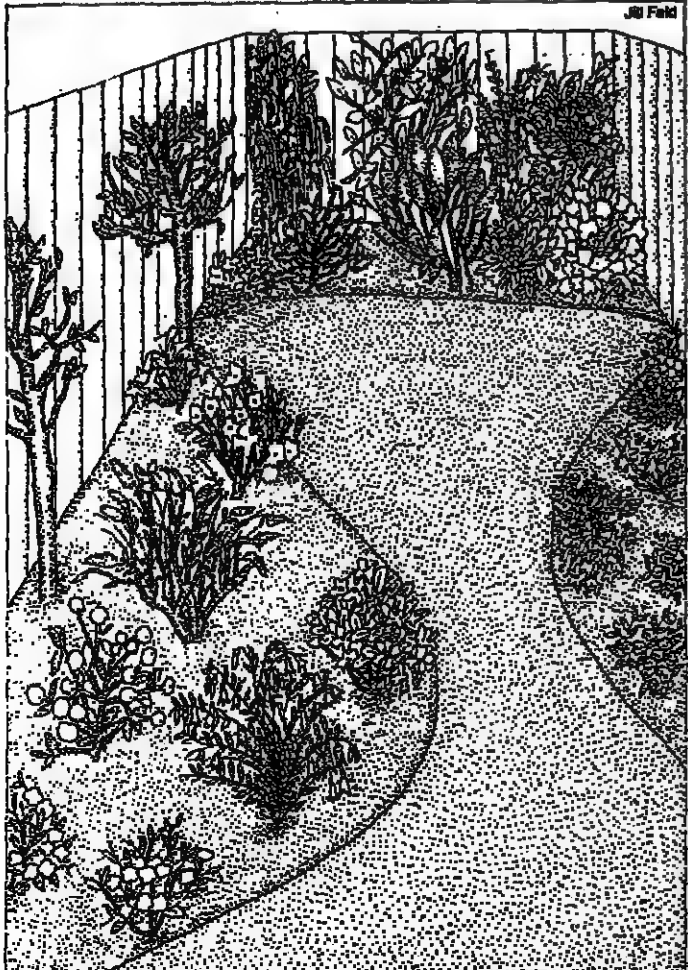


SHOPFRONT at Easter

IN THE GARDEN

Look forward to the rich rewards of patience

THE TIMES GARDEN PROJECT/ Month 8



The Times garden project began in August last year in an underdeveloped garden in Fulham, west London. Now that the slow winter season is nearly over, there are jobs to be done which will help to make the most of the approaching growing season.

The dormant season is coming to an end; sap is rising and it will not be long before there are signs of spring. The Times garden has been going through a period when nothing much seems to have been happening, and although this is not strictly true, it is a time when dependency can creep in.

Plants put in recently have not grown; those which were

pruned look even smaller and doubts about how the garden will look when completed are uppermost in the mind of the gardener. Try not to let this slow period affect your enthusiasm.

To try to lift the spirits we show an artist's impression of what the garden will look like in a few summer's time, when it will not be fully grown but at least will look clothed.

Before plants burst into leaf there are a number of jobs to be done. The most important is to get the grass right. Because the grass is thin there are more weeds than usual and these must be dealt with as soon as possible by going over the grass areas with a tined springbok rake. Press down quite firmly on the tines so they get into the soil and tear out the weed. There is quite a lot of chickweed which looks untidy

and is a nuisance, but the raking will help to control it. Other weeds are in evidence and these will be disturbed and any runners broken by the tines.

The lawn will not be a pleasant sight immediately after raking, but if you remove the grass and weed litter it will soon recover. Allow a few days for the weeds and grass to stand up again, then add a general grass fertilizer. Do not give the normal spring dosage but apply about half the required amount. This will encourage the grass and the weeds still in the lawn to grow more vigorously. Once strong growth is evident apply a selective weedkiller such as PBI Lawn Weedkiller at the recommended dosage. It may be necessary to repeat applications of weedkiller over the growing season at about six-weekly intervals. Up to three applications should be enough.

Allow about seven days for the weeds to take in the killer, then oversow the lawn with the same mixture grass seed. Sow at the normal rate, i.e. about 1oz per square yard. This will probably cover the bare patches, and as grass growth is vigorous in the spring there should be complete cover before the end of May.

There are a few spaces between the shrubs which could take plants which will add to the garden until the main plants are fully grown. *Deutzia Montezia*, about 5ft tall, or *Deutzia discolor* Rosalind, about 4ft tall, would add autumn colour. In the space filled with daffodils I would add *Abelia grandiflora*, moving a block of bulbs to get the shrub in. This little known evergreen with its attractive pink flowers will make a welcome addition.

Unfortunately, the grass has

not taken close to the border of the raised bed at the bottom of the garden, which calls for low planting to add colour to this area. *Hypericum calycinum*, with yellow flowers, *Coryopteris x landonensis*, with mauve/blue flowers, and *Fuchsia Adm Cornelissen*, which has red and white flowers, would grow informally and clothe this bed to add interest in the summer. I suggest six plants of each to make a splash.

The fence near the house needs something to cover it quickly, and *Eccremocarpus scaber* is a very fast growing plant which will cover this fence in a season. The site should be sheltered enough to allow the plant to remain from year to year. It has orange-red tubular flowers through the summer.

Ashley Stephenson

The owner writes:

With all the markers for the beds removed, the shape of the garden is beginning to appear at last. The beds are being covered with a mulch. Forest Bark, which will be expensive but should lessen the need for feeding.

Despite all the preparatory work late last summer and in the early autumn to root out signs of the original garden, daffodils and hysteresis have started to reappear.

Additional shrubs, the mulch and other odd items have taken the budget over £400, and the plants we add to the beds will have to be chosen carefully. By the time the 12 months are over we will have come very close to our limit of £500.

But we have saved some money by hunting out plants through a network of London and Home Counties nurseries.

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SHILLING MUSIC (London) presents a series of chamber music concerts. 7.30pm. £10.00, £5.00, £2.50.

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BARBICAN HALL

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 7.45pm
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, 9th Symphonies. £10.00, £5.00, £2.50.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

TOMORROW at 7.30pm
ITZHAK PERLMAN
BRUNO CANINO
BACH: Sonata in C minor for violin & piano
BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 3 in E flat
EARL KIM: 12 Caprices for unaccompanied violin

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Saturday 14 April at 7.45
DURUFLÉ: REQUIEM
John McCabe: Scatist Mater
Donald Cashmore: Cantata Jerusalem
CITY OF LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY
London Choir, Lady Duffell, William Bicknell, John Bick
CONDUCTOR: DONALD CASHMORE

NSO NEW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY NEXT at 7.30
TCHAIKOVSKY
"Sleeping Beauty" Waltz, "Swan Lake" Suite
Piano Concerto No. 1, "Nutcracker" Suite
Overture "1812" (Cannon & Mortar Effects)

Wigmore Hall

SUNDAY 15 APRIL at 3pm
VLADO PERLEMUTER
In Celebration of his 80th Birthday
CHOPIN
Trio: Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 3; Ballade, Op. 10, No. 4; Scherzo, Op. 39, No. 3

MOZART CONCERT

SUNDAY 22 APRIL at 1.15pm
VICTOR HOCHHAUSER
Symphony No. 40
Piano Concerto No. 21 (Elvira Madigan)
Overture, The Marriage of Figaro
Symphony No. 41 (Jupiter)

Wigmore Hall

Tuesday 17 April at 7.30pm
ROSEMARY HENNING
Piano
Chopin: Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 3; Ballade, Op. 10, No. 4; Scherzo, Op. 39, No. 3

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL at 7.30pm
SIR JOHN PRITCHARD
BRITTE FASSBAENDER
Delius: The Song of the Great City
Mahler: Symphony No. 1
Strauss: An Alpine Symphony

Wigmore Hall

Wednesday 17 April at 7.30pm
ROSEMARY HENNING
Piano
Chopin: Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 3; Ballade, Op. 10, No. 4; Scherzo, Op. 39, No. 3

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor: SIR CHARLES GROVES
Handel: MESSIAH
PAMELA COBURN, GILLIAN KNIGHT
JOHN GRAHAM HALL, PAUL HUDSON
ORCHESTRA NOVA OF LONDON

Wigmore Hall

Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm
ROSEMARY HENNING
Piano
Chopin: Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 3; Ballade, Op. 10, No. 4; Scherzo, Op. 39, No. 3

BOOK TODAY!

RAYMOND GUBRAY presents
at the BARBICAN
TONIGHT at 8pm.
TCHAIKOVSKY
MARCH SLAVES, SWAN LAKE SUITE (Eisenstein)
PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1, THE NUTCRACKER SUITE

BARBICAN HALL

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS
01-638 8891 / 628 8795
Telephone Bookings: 10am-9pm 7 days a week

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

HOLY WEEK 1984
Tuesday 17 April at 6pm
BACH: ST JOHN PASSION
Alan Green, Christopher Royal, Peter Hall, Nigel Newark, Graham Bortell, Mark Peterson

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL at 8pm
YEHUDI MENUHIN
First three concertos featuring outstanding young violinists
Ludovico and LUDOVICA
Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

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ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

HOLY WEEK 1984
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BACH: ST JOHN PASSION
Alan Green, Christopher Royal, Peter Hall, Nigel Newark, Graham Bortell, Mark Peterson

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL at 8pm
YEHUDI MENUHIN
First three concertos featuring outstanding young violinists
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Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

BARBICAN HALL

WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL at 8pm
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ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

HOLY WEEK 1984
Tuesday 17 April at 6pm
BACH: ST JOHN PASSION
Alan Green, Christopher Royal, Peter Hall, Nigel Newark, Graham Bortell, Mark Peterson

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

THURSDAY 25 APRIL at 8pm
YEHUDI MENUHIN
First three concertos featuring outstanding young violinists
Ludovico and LUDOVICA
Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

BARBICAN HALL

THURSDAY 25 APRIL at 8pm
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ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

HOLY WEEK 1984
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BACH: ST JOHN PASSION
Alan Green, Christopher Royal, Peter Hall, Nigel Newark, Graham Bortell, Mark Peterson

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

FRIDAY 26 APRIL at 8pm
YEHUDI MENUHIN
First three concertos featuring outstanding young violinists
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ENTERTAINMENTS

35th Bath International Festival
May 25 - June 10

poetry international 84
Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gregory Corso, John Cooper Clarke
For the latest poetry news see page 10

ROYAL ALBERT HALL APRIL 21

THEATRES

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Chess

Man and machine meet in battle royal

At a chess dinner the other evening my neighbour asked me what I thought of chess-playing machines and suggested that they had made considerable advances in playing strength recently. To which I replied that had he asked me that question a few years ago I should have said the improvements were negligible and that, provided I had two pieces left to make a combination, I should always beat them.

But I agreed they had recently become quite formidable, particularly the following four types of machine: Chess, Chess, Chess, Chess.

He then went on to say that someone he knew had said that in five years' time they would be able to beat the strongest chess-master. Did I agree? I replied that they might conceivably do this in 500 years' time but I was not prepared to wait about that long.

Chess computers do not possess the powers of creative analysis enjoyed by the human brain; if they did attain that remarkable level of imagination, that would be an enormous step forward.

Meanwhile, they have become pretty strong, as is reflected by the number of books on the subject. One of the earliest and most impressive is *Julio Kaplan's How to Get the Most from Your Chess Computer*, which was published by Putnam in 1981 at £5.95. Tim Harding's *The Chess Computer Book* (Penguin Press, £4.95) is also quite good but the best is probably David Levy's *The Chess Computer Handbook* (Baiford, £4.95), published this year.

The only chess machine I have been able to test this year is the excellent Chess Monarch, the most luxurious of the three Chess machines, which retails at £279. It has a handsome chessboard which works on a sensory principle and is a pleasure to use.

It has two main levels of playing strength, the stronger

class as tournament strength and the weaker as practical level. In turn each level is divided into five grades of increasing strength.

I think the opening programme still leaves something to be desired; but it is nevertheless an excellent machine. Its strengths and weaknesses are revealed in the following game which I played against it on level T4, in which it took the average time of three minutes a move. As will be seen, the weaknesses are mainly positional and the strengths mainly tactical.

White: H. Golombek. Black: Chess T4. English opening.

1 P404 P43 2 N4K3 N403
3 P404 N43 4 P405 P4N4
5 N4N3 move 6
6 N4N3 move 7
7 P404 P43 8 P405 P4N4
9 P404 P43 10 P405 P4N4
11 P404 P43 12 P405 P4N4
13 P404 P43 14 P405 P4N4
15 P404 P43 16 P405 P4N4
17 P404 P43 18 P405 P4N4
19 P404 P43 20 P405 P4N4
21 P404 P43 22 P405 P4N4
23 P404 P43 24 P405 P4N4
25 P404 P43 26 P405 P4N4
27 P404 P43 28 P405 P4N4
29 P404 P43 30 P405 P4N4
31 P404 P43 32 P405 P4N4
33 P404 P43 34 P405 P4N4
35 P404 P43 36 P405 P4N4
37 P404 P43 38 P405 P4N4
39 P404 P43 40 P405 P4N4
41 P404 P43 42 P405 P4N4
43 P404 P43 44 P405 P4N4
45 P404 P43 46 P405 P4N4
47 P404 P43 48 P405 P4N4
49 P404 P43 50 P405 P4N4
51 P404 P43 52 P405 P4N4
53 P404 P43 54 P405 P4N4
55 P404 P43 56 P405 P4N4
57 P404 P43 58 P405 P4N4
59 P404 P43 60 P405 P4N4
61 P404 P43 62 P405 P4N4
63 P404 P43 64 P405 P4N4
65 P404 P43 66 P405 P4N4
67 P404 P43 68 P405 P4N4
69 P404 P43 70 P405 P4N4
71 P404 P43 72 P405 P4N4
73 P404 P43 74 P405 P4N4
75 P404 P43 76 P405 P4N4
77 P404 P43 78 P405 P4N4
79 P404 P43 80 P405 P4N4
81 P404 P43 82 P405 P4N4
83 P404 P43 84 P405 P4N4
85 P404 P43 86 P405 P4N4
87 P404 P43 88 P405 P4N4
89 P404 P43 90 P405 P4N4
91 P404 P43 92 P405 P4N4
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THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

SOUTH AFRICAN GRAND PRIZE: The second round of the 1984 motorcycle world championship is being contested over the 76 laps of the Kyalami circuit. No British driver has won the event since Jackie Stewart 11 years ago, but with Derek Warwick, Nigel Mansell, Martin Brundle and Jonathan Palmer all going well in Rio recently, the British challenge could be stronger than for some time. The race starts at 1.30pm and is being covered live in Grandstand, BBC1.

GI BRIDES: A documentary by Lavinia Warner about the fate of some of the 70,000 British women who married American servicemen stationed here during the Second World War and later settled with their husbands in the United States. The film concentrates on four very different case histories and also covers a GI Bride convention in New Jersey. Channel 4, 9.30-10.50pm.

PHOENIX: A new play by David Storey is given its world premiere by a London amateur theatre. The setting is a theatre in northern England and the subject is the director's personal and artistic problems. Neville Cruttenden, Ann Seven, Lyn Langridge, Ruth Lester, Questlove Theatre, Matlock Lane, Ealing, London W5 (01-567 5184). Opens today at 7.45pm. Until Apr 14, Sun at 7.45pm, Tues-Sat at 7.45pm.

OUR GRACIE: World premiere of a play with music about the Lancashire-born entertainer Gracie Fields. Written by Jack Rosenzweig, directed by Steve Addison, Oldham Coliseum (061 624 2829). Previews today at 2.30pm, opens today at 7.30pm. Until May 5, Tues-Sat at 7.30pm.

Tomorrow

CURLEW IN AUTUMN: A new six-part radio thriller by Eddie Boyd, one of the leading exponents of the genre. It is set in Galloway, on the south-west coast of Scotland, where a struggling lawyer (played by David Tennant) is caught up in a murderous conspiracy which apparently involves the security forces and a local protest group. Radio 4, 7.02-7.30pm.

JERUSALEM: A "personal history" of the Holy City presented by Michael Frayn. He visited Jerusalem last Easter, and the programme covers the Holy Friday processions on the Via Dolorosa, the Easter rites in the Holy Sepulchre and the traditional seder meal of the Passover. Frayn sees the history of Jerusalem as a history of disputes, not only between armies but also between sects and faiths. BBC1, 10.05-11.05pm.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS EVOKED: Ken Russell, who made his name with television portraits of composers such as Elgar and Debussy, returns to the form with a film about another giant of English music, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Russell uses extracts from the nine Vaughan Williams symphonies to evoke the composer and there is a contribution from Ursula Vaughan Williams, his widow. The South Bank Show, all ITV regions, 10.30-11.35pm.

Monday

HAMLET: Making its first British tour with a mobile version of its home theatre, Manchester's Royal Exchange company is visiting Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Cheshire, Merseyside, Durham, Northumberland, Kent, Sussex, Buckinghamshire and finally the roof of the Barbican in London, between now and June. Robert Lindsay has the title role in a production seen in Manchester in 1983, with Alison Fiske as Gertrude, Philip Madoc as Claudius, Geraldine Alexander as Ophelia; directed by Graham Murray. Lewin Hays School, Newton Road, London, near Warrington (0942 603 419). Opens today at 7pm. Until Apr 14, Mon, Wed, Thurs at 7pm.



Showing their mettle: Virginia Holgate (left) and Lucinda Green, favourites for Badminton, and Anthony Caro, the sculptor, whose work can be seen at the Serpentine Gallery (see Thursday)

Fri and Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Tues at 1pm.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE PALACE: Market Theatre Company of Johannesburg presents a new play by Paul Stabilepzy. See page 16.

Tuesday

TRIBAL CARVINGS: The prices of lesser items and these remain cheap. Estimates in today's sale range from £10 to £1,200, with most lots less than £100. A Guro antelope mask, a Dan wood spoon, a Yoruba helmet mask, a Philippine island shell necklace, a Malasia wood paddle and an Asmat wood shield are among the offerings. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-838 2231) at 10.30am and 2pm.

CHINESE TREASURES: The catalogue of Chinese treasures for sale today and tomorrow is about the size of a telephone directory. The star turn is a fourteenth-century, underglaze, copper, red vase - a very difficult colour - valued at £150,000 to £250,000. A sixteenth-century bronze figure of an elephant is another rarity, and there is an unusual group of Korean pottery. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (01-838 8060) at 10.30am and 2.30pm today and tomorrow.

LONDON BOOK FAIR: The annual British book bazaar opens its doors to the public for the first time. Publishers at more than 600 stalls have the latest information on forthcoming books, many authors are available for discussion and books can be ordered. Barbican Exhibition Halls A and B, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-632 4141). Today, tomorrow and Thurs 9-6.30pm. Admission £1.

STEPPING OUT: World premiere of a Richard Harris play, set in a fitness class disturbed by a clash of personalities when they begin a tap-dancing course. Julia McKenzie directs a cast including Barbara Ferris, Diane Langton, Barbara Young, Ben Aris, Gabriella Lloyd, Peggy Phango. Thordike Theatre, Leatherhead, Surrey (0372 377677). Opens today at 7.30pm. Until Apr 28, Mon, Tues, Thurs at 7.30pm, Wed and Fri at 8pm, Sat at 7.30pm; matinees tomorrow at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

THE COMPLETE JOY OF SEX: Patrick Barlow and Jim Broadbent, also known as The National Theatre of Brent, present their latest epic comedy, with the help of Andrea Durant and accompanist Ian Anderson. Lyric Theatre, Hammermith, London W6 (01-741 2311). Previews today and tomorrow at 7.45pm, opens Thurs at 7pm. Until May 5, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm (not Apr 23), matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

RAINY DAY WOMEN: The first television play by David Pirie, the film critic, is set in September 1940; it is about a shell-shocked survivor from Dunkirk sent to investigate civilian morale in a lonely village in the Fens, at a time when Britain seems in imminent danger of an invasion. He finds the place thick with rumour and suspicion and doubts whether the villagers can rise to the challenge. Charles Dance, Suzanne Berish and Lindsey Duncan star. BBC1, 9.25-10.50pm.

Wednesday

ACQUISITION IN FOCUS: Degas's portrait *Helene Rouart* in *her Father's Study*, acquired in 1981, is one of the most important of the National Gallery's recent additions to its collection of nineteenth-century art. This

exhibition, which marks the 150th anniversary of Degas's birth, shows the artist's developing image of this particular sister, the daughter of one of his closest friends, from childhood to maturity. It also illustrates the artistic background of the painting, including the original of the Millet drawing depicted in it. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-638 5321). Until June 10, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.

CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH PRINTMAKERS: Clearly the special spirit of the "Scottish Colourists" is still alive and well north of the Border. The only trouble is that it too seldom travels south. But the Mercury Gallery has been doing a lot to remedy the situation with shows of a number of individual Scottish painters, and now this mixed show of etchings, lithographs and screenprints reflecting the enormous revival of interest in printmaking in Scotland in the last few years. A considerable variety of styles is in evidence, but a vibrant sense of colour links even the most disparate. Mercury Gallery, 28 Cork Street, London W1 (01-734 7800). Until May 12, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: The Royal Shakespeare Company's Barbican season opens with *Measure for Measure* as Isabella in Adrian Noble's production, as seen at Stratford. Peggy Mount is Mistress Overdone, David Schofield is Angelo, Barbra Streisand is Claudio. Previews today, tomorrow, Fri at 7.30pm. Opens Apr 17 at 7pm. In repertory.

VOLPONE: First Royal Shakespeare Company production of the new season in the Pit is directed by Bill Alexander, with Richard Griffiths in the title role of Ben Jonson's bitterly funny play. Miles Anderson is Mosca. Pit (01-628 8795/838 8891). Opens today at 7.30pm, tomorrow, Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory.

PASSION PLAY: The award-winning "adult comedy" by Peter Nichols returns to London in a production from the Haymarket Leicester. The cast includes Judy Parfitt, Zena Walker, Barry Foster, Leslie Phillips, Heather Wright, Patricia Heneghan; directed by Mike Ockrent. Wyndhams (01-838 3028). Previews from today at 8pm. Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm, opens Apr 18 at 7pm; matinees (from Apr 25) Wed at 3pm.

THE BOY FRIEND: Revival of Sandy Wilson's 1920s pastiche musical in a pre-West End run. Glynis Johns, Peter Bayliss, Derek Waring, Paddie O'Neill, Christine McKenna, Linda Mae Brewer and Rosemary Ashe, directed by the author, Churchill Theatre, Bromley, Kent (01-480 8677/8680). Opens today at 4.5pm. Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Apr 28, May 3 at 2.30pm, Apr 28, May 5 at 4.30pm.

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL: The semi-final first legs of the three European competitions are being played today, and with the draw keeping the British teams apart there is a possibility of three all-British finals. In the European Cup Liverpool take on Dynamo Bucharest and Dundee United play AS Roma. Manchester United and Aberdeen are in action in the Cup Winners' Cup and Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest in the UEFA Cup. There will be highlights of one match on *Midweek Sports Special*, ITV, 10.30pm-midnight.

Thursday

ANTHONY CARO: In what might be called a partial retrospective, this tribute to one of Britain's leading middle-generation sculptors skips the development section and the welded-steel abstractions which first brought Caro before the public in the 1960s. It begins instead 15 years ago

with works of his maturity. What we see, consequently, is a formed style gradually evolving as the artist tries out different materials or works on different scales. No revelations, but clear evidence of why Caro is where he is today. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6075). Until May 28, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm.

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS: The four-day annual event, established in 1945, begins with two days of dressage and about 80 competitors. On Fri there is a day-long endurance test and on Sat the Queen arrives to watch the jumping, parade and displays and to present the overall winner with the Whitbread Trophy. Favourites are Virginia Holgate probably riding Night Cap, Richard Meade on Andeguy, Mark Todd on Charisma and Lucinda Green on Beagle Bay. Badminton, Avon (045421 272). Ends Apr 15.

FRENCH FURNITURE: The grandest furniture on offer this spring. The magnificent ebony and tortoiseshell marquetry commode by Andre Charles Boulle, made around 1700, might reach £500,000; its pair is in the Hermitage in Leningrad and they were presumably made for someone close to the King. There is also a fine suite of Louis XIV walnut chairs, a beautiful late Sevres mounted Louis XVI. English table in the manner of Weisweiler, and a richly ornate Louis XVI verres martin cupboard. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (01-838 8060) at 11am.

NATIONAL STUDENT DRAMA FESTIVAL: British students present a week of tightly packed programmes from afternoon to late night. Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* repeats Sir John's performance in *Passing Time*, by Rhyia Adrian, in which he and Raymond Huntley (also 80 this month) play two 90-year-olds looking back over the past.

are open discussions. Brighton Hall, Wakefield, West Yorkshire (092485 5233). Course ticket £28; individual events £1.10-£2.20. Until Apr 19.

Friday

ART NOUVEAU: A two-session sale of decorative arts of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries includes a magnificent William Morris carpet at one end of the time scale and a fine group of pots by contemporary potters (including Lucie Rie, Hans Coper, Liz Fritsch) at the other. Sotheby's, 34-35 Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080) at 11am and 2.30pm.

TARZAN: Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes, the first film directed by Hugh Hudson since his much-garlanded *Chariots of Fire*, contains the last screen appearance of Sir Ralph Richardson as the seventh Earl of Greystoke, Tarzan's grandfather. Tarzan is played by a young American actor, Christopher Lambert, and the supporting cast includes three actors from *Chariots of Fire*, Ian Holm, Nigel Davenport and Cheryl Campbell. Court PG, ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2836); Warner West End (493 0791); and on national release.

SILKWOOD: Meryl Streep stars in Mike Nichols's new film. See page 17.

THE GOLDEN SEAL: Torquil Campbell plays a boy whose unusual friendship with a legendary golden seal brings him up against ruthless seal hunters. Also with Michael Beck, Steven Raibeck and Penelope Milford. Directed by Frank Zúnga; produced by Samuel Goldwyn Junior. Court PG, ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2836); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861); Classic Haymarket (838 1527); Classic Oxford Street (836 0310); and on national release.

FOOTLOOSE: A venerable musical plot (swinging youngsters versus ultra-square parents) receives its latest variation in a film once scheduled for Michael Cimino, director of *Heaven's Gate*. Kevin Bacon stars as the new teenage resident in a town where dancing is outlawed; John Lithgow plays the local minister determined to uphold old ways. Directed by Herbert Ross. Court PG, ABC Bayswater (229 4149); ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2836); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861); Classic Oxford Street (836 0310); Plaza Pico Circus (457 1234); and on national release.

LADY AND THE TRAMP: Revival of the Disney studio's first Cinemascope cartoon feature - a slender tale about a pedigree spaniel's romantic affair with a mongrel. Originally released in 1955. The sweet-toothed should find it agreeable. Court U, Cinecitta Pantan Street (930 9772); Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148); Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300); and on national release.

ALL OUR WORKING LIVES: Ambitious 11-part documentary series which traces the history of British industry since 1914, making use of the memories of shop-floor workers and managers and archive film. A theme of the programmes is how Britain, which led the world in so many fields during the nineteenth century, was overtaken by foreign competitors in the twentieth. The point is well made in tonight's opener, which deals with shipbuilding. BBC2, 9.25-10.25pm.

GIELGUD AT 80: On the eve of his eightieth birthday Sir John Gielgud talks to Michael Billington in a special edition of *Kaleidoscope* that also includes tributes from Lindsay Anderson, Peggy Ashcroft, Alan Bennett, Dirk Bogarde, Dudley Moore, Anthony Quayle and Peter Brook. Radio 4, 8.45-10.15pm. Tomorrow Radio 4 repeats Sir John's performance in *Passing Time*, by Rhyia Adrian, in which he and Raymond Huntley (also 80 this month) play two 90-year-olds looking back over the past.

Collecting

Fun and games inspired by the fakes

"What fun it is when someone takes an enormous amount of trouble to be really naughty", said a former distinguished member of the British Museum staff apropos the great forgeries exhibition held by that institution in 1961.

All museums have their fakes collections (whether they admit it or not) and some collect forgeries as deliberate policy. Nothing concentrates the mind of the experts more than the possibility that their aesthetic appreciation might be called into play, and the examination of genuine and fake side by side is a most rewarding exercise.

Taking fakes seriously and collecting them is a strenuous but exciting pastime. A good moment to buy is often just after the denouement - the fake has been revealed and the seller wants out at almost any price. A salutary story on this theme is told by H. P. Kraus, perhaps the greatest book and manuscript dealer in current practice, in his autobiography *A rare book saga*. He bought a beautifully illuminated manuscript for a high price. He took it to the Pierpont Morgan library in New York where the curator, the formidable Belle da Costa Greene, showed him with an icy stare and told him it was a fine example of the work of the "Spanish forger". So he sold it at 10 per cent under cost to a discriminating collector but after further study it was accepted as genuine again, which I believe it still is.

The Spanish forger is interesting and unusual among forgers in being the subject of a complete oeuvre catalogue, *The Spanish Forger* by W. Voelkle and R. S. Wiecek. He was active between 1870-1910 and produced extremely appealing pastiches of fifteenth and sixteenth-century illuminated manuscripts characterized by the sugary faces and daring décolletage of the ladies; the limited number of colours of the costumes and superficial treatment of their folds; the over-



Deceptive art: Miniature by the Spanish forger auctioned at Sotheby's in 1983 with two others as forgeries for £1,600

theatrical postures and hard gestures of the stock figures and the use of emerald green, a copper arsenite pigment which was not available before about 1814.

His sugary confections are now collected on their own account and a good miniature may cost as much as £300. He provided, of course, that it is a genuine Spanish forger and not, by some unchristened and unidentified practitioner. The fake market in this respect follows the normal art market rules. One intriguing thought is that intensive and intelligent collecting might reveal more clues as to who the Spanish

forger was, since he has never been publicly identified. Many of the forgeries were marketed in France (the sobriquet Spanish forger is due to an historical accident) and more work needs to be done on provenance since the pedigree of the forgeries must lead back to a common source - their perpetrator.

Christopher de Hamel of Sotheby's has suggested that the technical quality of his paintings indicates a training in mimicry at one of the flourishing schools of manuscript facsimile-making in mid-nineteenth century Paris. He might well have come from the atelier of Henri Le Curmer (1801-1870), a publisher

who produced a series of fine books with elaborate decorations after Medieval manuscripts. His *Les Evangiles des Dimanches et Fetes* (Paris, 1862-64) includes some illustrations remarkably close to the Spanish forger in taste and technique.

Or was the Spanish forger perhaps Ictilio Frederico Joni, well known as a forger in other fields? His remarkable autobiography, translated into English as *Affairs of a Painter* in 1926, describes in considerable detail the operation of a forgery workshop in Siena. Besides forgeries of quattrocento paintings - there is a fine triptych in the Courtauld - he specialized in fakes of the *Tavole di Biccherna* or Siennese tax records, the covers of which are a famous series of elaborately decorated book bindings. "For the punchwork decoration I first used knitting needles of varying thickness... later I discovered a way of doing it with a small drill. I made the bronze bosses at corners of the cover old by bathing them in ammonia, and for the little iron plates which served as a clasp in the centre, I used tincture of iodine which rusted them in just the right way."

Joni's book covers (the contents were not important and he did not reproduce them) were sold with great success for a number of years. Like many of the best forgers, he had genuine artistic talent and could work well in a pastiche style: he was not a mere copyist.

Fake book bindings are now collected seriously: a binding supposed to have been made for the bibliophile Canevari made over £300 in a sale in Monte Carlo a few years ago. It was a most skilful piece of work of a type not uncommon, being a genuine sixteenth-century binding with nineteenth-century additions giving a false provenance. I nearly fell for it. Real Joni fakes are now rare on the market and a fine example might well cost over £1,000 if it were authentic.

John Collins

Out and About

Crafty quirkiness of a one-man creation



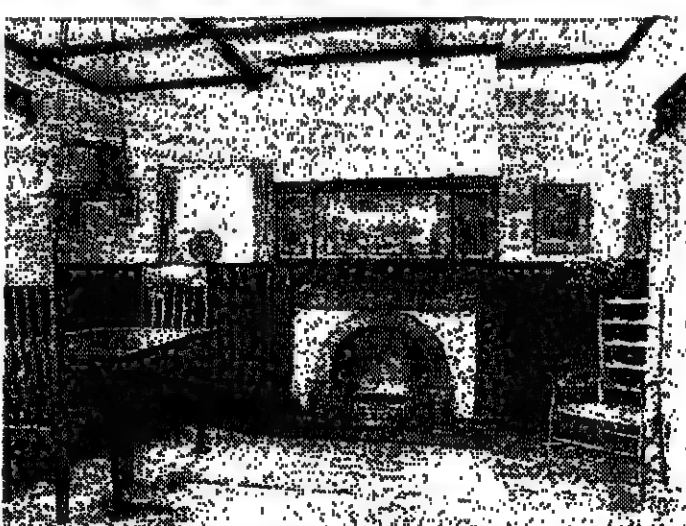
Artistic versatility: Dickinson's spacious living-room and his self-portrait, hung in the lobby

initiated, bought it, restored it sensitively, and installed unobtrusive mod cons.

They opened it to the public in 1973, and have since maintained it as a "living" house, with a succession of resident curators. And so it is that the curious can now view Little Holland House in all its glory (or nearly all, for the garden is as yet largely unrestored).

As you step through the wide front door - built thus because Dickinson thought width was welcoming - you enter immediately a world of clean-lined, pure-minded utopianism, of aesthetic uplift wedded to ethical rigour. Dickinson did not believe in useless entrance halls, so there is "just a small lobby" dominated by his powerful self-portrait, before one enters the main living-cum-sitting room which stretches from the front of the house to the back and where the Dickinsonian ethos is most densely concentrated.

Over the central mantelpiece is an emblematic triptych making a point about sound husbandry, set above a neo-classical frieze and a "Tudor" fireplace surrounded by arts and crafts tiles - an extraordinary combination which very nearly worked. The firescreen and fire-irons are the versatile Dickin-



son's own work, as are the table, the chairs, the lampshade, and a remarkable "organ-style" coal-box which was his very first effort at woodwork.

A second fireplace has copies of paintings by Turner and Watts, and set among the wood panelling are little relief profiles of Dickinson, his family, and an aged John Ruskin. The ceiling is of timber with heavy joists and beams, and at either end of the room are crossbeams carved in a manner that Ruskin would have approved. At eye level, the staircase uncompromisingly exposes its underside.

Upstairs, the bedroom is dominated by the fine bed which was Dickinson's second do-it-yourself project; it bears an elaborately carved motto on its headboard: "Oh sleep it is a gentle thing" (from "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner").

Another fitting quotation runs round the painted frieze at the top of the wall - this one from Longfellow: "Stars of the summer night! Far in your azure deep Hide, hide your golden light! Sleep! Sleep! My lady sleeps! Sleep!" This frieze had been painted over when Dickinson found himself unable to maintain it; it was rediscovered during restoration. The fireplace here has a plaster panel taken from Burne

John Andrew

Little Holland House, 40 Beeches Avenue, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, is open to the public from noon to 6pm on the first Sun of each month from March to Oct and on the Sun and Mon of the Easter, Spring, May Day and Summer bank holiday weekends. Admission free.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The riddle of the stock markets

Common stocks in New York are hitting 12-month lows. Tokyo has climbed to record highs through the Tokyo-Dow Jones 11,000 barrier. London is skulking diffidently somewhere between the two extremes. In a world where stock markets are at their most Sphinx-like, scattering riddles throughout the global village like confetti.

Economic fundamentals justify Wall Street's weakness. Bounding expansion in the real economy, an accelerating federal deficit, and money supply rising strongly account for the move toward higher US rates. Prime rates have risen another notch to 12 per cent, and in an election year, the trade off between higher interest rates and higher inflation favours, in the short term, in monetary correction. Long bond yields of about 12½ per cent presaged the drop in Wall Street. If Argentina's reluctance or inability to pay its debts results in massive write-offs from bankers' loan portfolios, then the movement toward higher prime rates would gather strength, as banks try to claw back at home some of their South American losses. Super bears among London brokers envisaged a fall in the Dow Jones industrial average.

Tokyo's lift off also has some rational justification. Japanese institutions are cash rich, and reportedly are switching rapidly into domestic stocks and away from Wall Street. Tokyo in the spring tends in any event to be a good time for equities. With gross domestic product heading towards a 5 per cent growth rate this year, corporate profits set to rise by some 40 per cent, and the current balance of payments account heading for a \$20bn surplus, a record market price/earnings multiple of about 30 loses some of its terror.

In London, now off some 40 points after the post-Budget advance to the record 900 mark, sentiment is two-way. This year's sharp rise in dividends should help to underpin share values, but a record reverse yield gap of more than 5½ per cent looks pacy, especially when the market needs to absorb at least £2½ billion of new paper (Enterprise Oil; Reuters; and British Telecom) by the year end. More worryingly, the market now apparently lacks a definite intellectual shape. The bears would not be surprised to see the FT index shed up to 300 points.

Oils have performed well in New York and Tokyo, while airlines have underperformed sharply. Car manufacturers lagged in both markets. In Tokyo the top performers in the March surge were banks, security houses and non-life companies - normally a sign that the market is starting to froth. Precious metal stocks have performed well since January in New York. In London discount houses, office equipment, textiles, tobaccos and mining finance have shone.

War on building societies

Britain's 206 building societies face a fight in their attempt to persuade the Government to liberalize the laws governing their activities. The clearing banks, finance houses and insurance companies are already lobbying hard to have restraints put on the societies as it becomes apparent to them that the Government is in sympathy with the societies' attempts to move into insurance, retail banking, estate agency, foreign exchange, land ownership and expansion abroad.

The societies have diplomatically lowered their sights: they no longer contemplate taking over banks and finance houses. But they want to be free to offer unsecured loans.

Finance houses, most of which are subsidiaries of the clearing banks, would be particularly affected.

Building societies, let off the lease,

Greenwich means a great deal

In the last three years more than 90 foreign companies have obtained Stock Exchange or USM listings in the UK. While the large majority of these were straightforward introductions to add the prestige of London listing, foreign companies have still raised over £75m in the UK capital market since 1981. US companies, which have accounted for 44 listings, have led the way.

Yet impressive as these figures are, they have gone largely unheeded. It has been left to accountants Peat Marwick to put them together, inspired to do so by the large number of enquiries the firm was receiving from overseas companies looking for a London quotation.

There is every reason to think that the movement into London will continue and yet no one has really established why foreign companies are so interested (apart from the cachet). Peat's analysis is fairly standard. London offers a varied choice ranging from a full Stock Exchange listing through the USM to the OTC market. The self-regulatory environment in the UK makes reporting requirements less onerous and encourages greater flexibility.

The absence of exchange controls and London's stability, integrity and professional skills are clearly factors. There is also the powerful, practical reason that in international time zone terms London is happily placed between the major capital markets of both East and West: the Greenwich meridian is London's greatest inheritance.

There is nothing new in this analysis. The talk of internationalization of capital markets, improving technology and the growth of international links between the financial institutions contains elements of both truth and expectation. None of this, however, explains why some smaller overseas companies whose shares are not publicly traded in their own countries have chosen to go public for the first time in London. Perhaps they feel that the UK capital market is a soft touch. On a more practical level it could be that the lower administrative costs and more manageable prospectus requirements make London the obvious choice for the company which needs cash in a hurry.

A foreign company's London listing is good business for the financial services sector. Peat lists eight categories of adviser which have an eager hand in arranging a stock market quotation.

could also charge substantially less than estate agents - 1 per cent compared with the 2-3 per cent. They are striking fear in the building industry. The Nationwide and Abbey National have already worked with local councils to build homes and flats for purchase by those on housing waiting lists at prices substantially below those ruling in the open market.

Insurance companies already pay the societies substantial commissions (£250m last year) for insuring homes but some societies would like to write insurance themselves.

The Government is unlikely to give them all they are asking for but in housing the temptation is considerable. Government financial support would be reduced if societies and local authorities worked together in supplying homes. Entry into insurance might be the carrot.

Chemical group's profits up

Yorkshire Chemicals increased its pretax profit for the year to December to £568,000 - more than double 1982's £244,000, but well below the expected profits of £1.3m. Turnover was up by nearly £8m to £28.3m. The dividend is 1.25p (1p in 1982).

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● Lyle Shipping yesterday announced increased pretax losses of £5.4m for 1983, against losses of £4.7m the previous year. Group turnover fell from £25m in 1982 to £20.6m last year. No final dividend means the total dividend for the year will be 2p, compared with 7.5p.

Tempos, page 22

● After a brief attempt at a rally, the New York Stock Exchange moved lower again yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average was off about 1½ points.

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4285 down 55pts
Index 79.8 down 0.2
DM 3.7475 down 0.0150
FF 11.5250 down 0.0250
Yen 322 down 2.0
Dollar
Index 127.2 up 0.4
DM 2.6207 down 0.0153
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4295
Dollar DM 2.6210
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.598022
SDR £0.739512

NEWS IN BRIEF
Distillers to take \$250m loan

The Distillers Co is arranging to borrow \$250m (£176m) through a seven-year revolving Eurocredit to finance its recently announced US purchase of Somerset Importers from Esmark.

The credit, which is being arranged by Robert Fleming and Co, the bankers will be syndicated among up to about 15 banks and will carry a ½ per cent margin over Eurodollar rates.

● There is a danger of advertising standards declining if reputable companies feel they are losing trade as a result of questionable advertising by rivals. Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of Fair Trading, told the Institute of Marketing. He called for legal back-up to the Advertising Standards Authority's controls.

● W H Smith and Son has linked up with the computer software distributor, Softeam, in an attempt to increase its share of British business software supply in the next three years. The partnership is called WHS Softeam.

● Sheffield Brick has sold the business and certain assets of its manufacturing subsidiary, S. W. Fabrications, for £400,000, which was paid in cash on completion. In 1983 S. W. Fabrications showed a profit of £71,865 after management charges of £40,000.

Poverty-trap families 'are now worse off'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The sharp increase in the income tax threshold announced in the Budget will have virtually no impact on the poverty and unemployment traps faced by poor families, while the changes in housing benefit rules will make them worse, according to an analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Calculations by Mr Andrew Dilnot, research officer at the institute, suggest that the Budget tax measures will leave unchanged at 4.3 per cent the proportion of families in the poverty trap who face marginal "tax" rates of more than 60 per cent, as additional earnings are eroded by extra tax and loss of means-tested benefits.

The steeper tapering of housing benefit following government cutbacks to the scheme will raise that proportion to 5.6 per cent in 1984-85, Mr Dilnot estimates.

Only about 20 per cent of those taken out of tax by the 7 per cent increase in real (inflation-adjusted) tax thresholds are heads of households likely to be caught by the poverty trap - about 40,000 families in all. The rest are youngsters living at home or married women bringing in a second wage, the IFS says.

Mr Dilnot says the "better off on the dole" problem, or unemployment trap, has now largely disappeared, following cuts in unemployment support. The higher tax thresholds and

ECGD privatization likely to be urged by inquiry

By John Lawless

The Sir Peter Mathews committee of inquiry into the future of the Export Credits Guarantee Department is to recommend that it becomes a semi-privatized corporation.

The report is likely to be published next Wednesday, eight months after the chairman of Vickers was asked to review ECGD's entire operations.

The Department of Trade and Industry will make the recommendations the subject of a public discussion, but will not announce a decision until June or July.

The most controversial proposal directly affecting exporters is that there should be a change in the way premiums for insurance cover are levied. The largest companies have for a long time complained that, under the present system, they subsidize smaller ones.

This will pose a considerable dilemma for the Government:

should it follow its instincts and allow a fairer, more competitive, fee structure, which could be a financial deterrent to the vast majority of firms trying to sell in overseas markets?

Although ECGD raised its premiums by a flat 5 per cent this week, roughly in line with inflation, it added surcharges for firms with bad claims records and for those selling to riskier markets. It also lowered discounts for extended-term cover.

That will push up its income by 8.5 per cent, or £25m, at a time when claims pay-outs have reached proportions, doubling in the last two years to reach £618m in the 11 months to the end of February.

The full public debate to be launched next week could not come at a worse time for ECGD. Having survived two previous inquiries, in 1958 and 1972, the claims build-up has



Sir Peter: proposal poses a dilemma

now forced it to borrow from the Treasury-held Consolidated Fund for the first time in 30 years, thereby increasing the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

Critics argue that ECGD has an effective stranglehold on the

export insurance market, because of the "comprehensive" nature of its policies which insist that exporters must place all business with ECGD, or none at all.

Private insurers would particularly like to see a separation between commercial and political insurance. While their actuaries can assess a buyers' bankruptcy potential, they are generally wary of being asked to predict the likelihood of Third World governments staying in power.

The CBI has been one of the strongest proponents of an inquiry.

A considerable proportion of British sales go to developing countries that are now most in trouble, such as Nigeria.

To opt out of covering those - and ECGD has always persevered after private cover has disappeared - would be to wipe out British sales in both the short and long term.

USM listing refused for Stanley Gibbons

By Jonathan Clare

The disastrous Stanley Gibbons attempt to return to the stock market ended yesterday with the resignation of Mr Clive Feigenbaum, the £45,000 a year chairman, and news that permission to deal had not been granted by the Stock Exchange.

Mr Feigenbaum, the biggest shareholder with a 56 per cent stake in the stamp dealing company, volunteered his resignation at a board meeting. Mr David Stokes, the managing director, said: "It was considered to be in the best interests of the company."

The company's stockbroker, Simon & Coates, said that adverse press comment concerning Mr Feigenbaum and the question of his relationship with the Philatelic Trading Society meant the issue would not go ahead. The stockbroker said that those issues had "in the apparent view of the Stock Exchange created questions of its suitability which prevents them from permitting dealings on the Unlisted Securities Market".

Simon & Coates, which has a strong record of bringing successful companies to the USM, still hopes that Stanley Gibbons will win a quote. But in the short term the aim is to reduce Mr Feigenbaum's stake, possibly through outside shareholders.

A public quote is technically impossible until after June because the Stock Exchange's rules require accounts audited within the last nine months.

Cheques for applications for 30 per cent of the shares at 100p to raise £2.5m were put into a special account. Applicants will have their money returned plus interest if it amounts to more than £10.

Mr Stokes said: "We're not blaming anybody for what happened but we are obviously very disappointed. We don't know the criteria (the Stock Exchange's Quotations Department are looking at. But the press comment obviously ruined the reputation of Mr Feigenbaum in the eyes of the Stock Exchange."

The report had outlined Mr Feigenbaum's interests in "local label" stamps which are not officially recognized. A disagreement over the description of "propaganda labels" in advertising promotions led to his expulsion from the Philatelic Traders Society in 1970.

Companies House will not be sold

By Our City Staff

The Government has formally dropped plans for the privatization of the Companies Registration Office, more familiarly known as Companies House, which keeps the official records of almost a million British companies.

Privatization of the service, which provides vital information for everyone from the Fraud Squad to takeover tycoons, was proposed in November 1982 as one way of cutting the number of civil servants.

Yesterday Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said that not only would Companies House remain part of the Department of

Trade and Industry, but staff would be increased by 100.

The extra staff will be used mainly to chase companies defaulting on the requirement to submit returns. The number of defaulters has grown from 285,000 in March 1980 to 399,000 at March 1 1984. The staff will also be told to make more use of High Court orders requiring defaulters to deliver returns.

Mr Tebbit said in a parliamentary reply that the number of companies registered by Companies House since 1979 had increased by almost a third, and the number of documents last year was 35 per cent higher than in 1982.

Mortgage loophole to end

By Vivien Goldsmith

A loophole for home buyers which allows unlimited mortgage tax relief in special circumstances is being closed by the Finance Act.

But the Inland Revenue is inviting claims from those who may have qualified for the tax relief within the past six years, but did not come forward.

The loophole arises when someone buys a new house and takes on a new mortgage while still retaining the old house and mortgage. It also arises when a

Hopes rise on Nigeria debt talks

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Talks between Nigerian officials and its main trade creditors over the refinancing of overdue trade debts will continue in London today amid signs that the gap is narrowing.

A meeting yesterday over differences on the terms of the refinancing proposals was reported to have made progress by both parties.

Mr Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji, permanent secretary of the Nigerian Ministry of Finance, said yesterday: "There has been a great deal of misunderstanding which the meeting has cleared. We made very good progress."

He hoped that the outstanding issues could be settled today.

The trade creditors meeting with the Nigerian team were representing a group of about 350 companies which are being advised by the merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell.

They have been concerned with the quality of the six year promissory notes which they are to be offered under the refinancing, and have been seeking to ensure that the notes are backed by a legal agreement, which provides for parity of treatment between all creditors and puts them on a par with other medium-term creditors.

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Pension Plan Results					TARGET Managed
Over 5 years assuming 6 annual premiums of £250 each. Amount invested allows for tax relief at 30%					
HAMBRO Managed	NATIONAL PROVIDENT	EQUITABLE	ABBEY Equity	M&G	Value of Fund
Value of Fund £4,105	Value of Fund £4,133	Value of Fund £4,303	Value of Fund £4,574	Value of Fund £4,987	£6,345
Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100

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Obviously, the most important factor in making your decision will be the size of your pension fund when you retire. And that will be determined by the success, or otherwise, of your chosen investment managers.

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The table above is taken from the latest publication on personal pension plans published by the Financial Times.* It compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan - linked to the Target Managed Pension Fund - with five of the market leaders in individual pension plans.

What it doesn't show, however, is that the Target plan has out-performed all other similar plans over the last five years. The sort of performance you'd expect from funds managed by J. Rothschild Investment Management Limited.

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Brockhouse now backs Evered bid

By Philip Robinson

The management of Brockhouse yesterday changed its mind for the third time about which of the competing takeover bids for the loss-making west Midlands engineering company it should recommend.

In doing so, it has pushed the price of the company from about £5m to almost £11m. Those competing for control are Caparo Industries, run by Mr Swarj Paul, which already owns a 20.3 per cent stake, and Evered, the Arab-backed specialist metals group, which, by acting in concert with Oceanside Investments, an Arab investment company, speaks for 11 per cent of Brockhouse.

Brockhouse, under pressure from its bankers this year, was seeking a huge injection of fresh money. In mid-February, Caparo Industries agreed a scheme which would have injected £5m cash.

At the time, Oceanside bought a 7.75 per cent stake. Within hours of a meeting seeking Brockhouse shareholders' approval for the Caparo scheme, Evered bid £7.3m in cash and shares. Last week, Caparo returned, topping it by £2.1m.

Evered came back yesterday with terms which value Brockhouse at £10.95m. Terms are 17 Evered shares for every 30 Brockhouse shares. After adjusting for the Evered rights issue, the share bid values Brockhouse shares at 63.35p.

The board accordingly recommends all ordinary shareholders to accept.

Late yesterday afternoon, Caparo purchased a further 225,000 Brockhouse shares at 53.5p each. Under the takeover rules it has increased the cash element of its offer to match that level, but has left unchanged its previous bid terms.

Barratt pushed to year's low

By Derek Pain

The once high-flying shares of Barratt Developments, Britain's biggest housebuilder, fell to a 1983-84 low yesterday as stockbrokers continued to downgrade the company's profit prospects.

At one stage last year the shares hit 278p. Yesterday they lost 2p to 128p.

Since the company, created by Sir Lawrie Barratt, announced disappointing interim figures there has been a rush by analysts to revise their profit forecasts. The process continued yesterday when, for the second time since the midway figures, a leading stockbroker reduced its profit projections.

At one time the firm was going for £57m for the year. Then £52m. Yesterday it cut its forecast to £45m. This would compare with £52.2m last year.

The controversy over timber frame homes represents only part of Barratt's discomfort. The stockbroker says that Barratt has had a poor second half year with land prices moving up more quickly than house prices and the housing market as a whole is flattening out.

Barratt is a highly geared company and a relatively modest fall in its house sales has a disproportionately large impact on profits.

The company seems, at the moment, to be taking the full blast of the City's displeasure with housebuilding. Shares of other housebuilders, although off their best, have not suffered as much.

The stockbroker believes that Barratt shares will continue to underperform and should be avoided by all but income funds.

For much of yesterday shares drifted lower with the FT 30-share index down by 8.6 to

£58.4 at the start. But in the last hour prices perked up as buyers took advantage of the new time facility for the next three-week account.

The P & O shipping group was one leader to resist the general malaise. The share steamed ahead 12p to 312p on another wave of takeover speculation. Although Trafalgar House has been given the all-clear to bid by the Monopolies Commission.

Expect the Temple Bar Investment Trust to throw off its rather staid image and adopt a much more active role. It has already moved into unit trust management and acquired 29.7 per cent of the Alva Investment Trust. The Alva connection is intended to allow it to adopt a wider investment policy than its present articles permit.

The next development could be the acquisition of a substantial discount to assets than most investment trusts, were unchanged at 100p yesterday.

mission, it has, at least for the time being, chosen not to do so. But if P & O was in buoyant for, the British and Commonwealth shipping group, which now had a wide spread of interests outside its traditional seafaring activities, suffered a 30p decline to 88p.

Government stocks had a steady day, recording modest gains in quiet trading. Composite insurance shares had a dull time, even Commercial Union. With the takeover speculation abating the shares slipped. However an early 4p fall was trimmed to a mere 1p at 219p. Insurance brokers were mixed. Sturge Holdings said yesterday it is planning a share listing in a few years. In the meantime, it is placing shares among its 1,000 underwriting

members as well as some City institutions.

The share quotes of eight plantation companies were suspended as the talks to take them under full Malaysian control reached an advance stage. All eight are, directly or indirectly, related to Harrison and Crossfield which once had an extensive web of plantation interests. But its main company, Harrison Malaysian Plantations went under Malaysian control in September, 1982. In January HMP opened talks with its former parent about buying out the H and C interests, which are probably worth about £20m.

Shares suspended are: Castlefield (Klang); Holyrood; Kuala Selangor; Sogomana; Kint Kall; Sungai Bahru; Dorankande and Malaysia Rubber.

Applied Computers surged 52p to 715p as hopes over its Sirius computer grew. Commercial Bank of Wales, which made the transition from the rule 163 market on Thursday, slipped from 128p to 123p.

By far the biggest gain of the day was by the little known C. A. Speriati (The Special Agency) where Mr P. Nash and Mr J. Alexander have already acquired nearly 60 per cent of the capital and are bidding 155p a share for the rest.

But the arrival of Mr Cyril Barratt with a 6.6 per cent shareholding sent the shares soaring 115p to 325p. Even at its new exalted share level, C. A. Speriati, a Manchester business trading as a button and trimming merchant, is valued at just £325,000.

Y. J. Lovell, the building contractor, fell 2p to 166p on news that it is buying Essex and Suffolk Properties, a privately owned housebuilding company for £1.64m, £7.8m of which will be satisfied in cash and the

rest by the issue of 2.5 million shares which have already been placed on behalf of the vendors.

John Finlan, the building group, was unchanged at 180p after news that Mr Graham Ferguson-Lacey's Amadeus has increased its share stake to 20 per cent. Mr John Finlan, chairman, said: "There are many different projects currently under discussion with Amadeus. We welcome its involvement."

Avana Group has not, unexpectedly, dropped its contested bid for Bassett Foods. Shareholders representing only 7.5 per cent of the Bassett capital accepted the offer. The shares fell 7p to 146p on the news. Avana also eased, by 2p to 522p.

Among clothing shares, Lin-croft Kilgour held steady at 86p, although Drayton Consolidated continues to express a deep interest in the business. It has acquired another 135,000 shares lifting its shareholding to 23.13 per cent.

Expect a weekend announcement from the merchant bankers Robert Fleming of a new Japanese investment trust raising \$60m to investment in quoted companies which would be equivalent to Britain's USM. Fleming has vast experience of the Tokyo scene and more funds may follow. This one will be based in Bermuda and run by Jardine Fleming, which has £1 billion under management, half it in Japan.

R. H. Morley, a USM-traded polytechnic business was also unchanged. Technology Resources, a Swiss investment company, has increased its shareholding to 18 per cent by buying shares from two Morley directors, Messrs J. Ellis and E. H. Eggleston.

A cheerful statement from Mr Robert Holloway, managing director of the Lorin electric switch group, helped the shares 2p higher to 145p. He says the order book in January was at a record level and "we confidently expect our sales this year to reach £3.75m". In the previous year sales were £2.8m with profits of £567,000.

Continuing speculation that Mr Robert Holmes & Court is increasing its shareholding in Fleet Holdings, the Express newspaper group, added 2p to the shares at 164p.

Lyle Shipping tumbled 14p to 80p on the plunge into losses. I D and S Rivin, the little textile group where both Mr David Wickins and Mr Michael Ashcroft have built up shareholdings, spurred 19p to 93p. Hartons Group, continued to respond to its 400 per cent profit jump, hitting 52p. Brewers G Riddle came in for attention gaining 11p to 176p.

Equity turnover on Thursday was valued at £28,038m (26,975 bargains). Gilt bargains totalled 3,409. The number of British and Irish shares traded was 178.8m.

MONEY MARKETS

Short date period rates softened in expectation of easier money conditions next week.

The activity was mainly at the short end - up to three months - in the morning, though interest switched to the longer dates in the afternoon.

"Fives" were bought at 3 1/4 per cent and "sixes" at 8 1/2 per cent. A few buyers were also nibbling out at 11 and 12 months.

Interbank, overnight money traded down from 3 1/4 to 1/2 per cent to 7 1/4 to 1/2 per cent in the morning.

Rates eased further to about 7 per cent at the close. Local authorities were interested only at the extreme short end of the market.

Dollar rates drifted quietly back from firmer opening levels that came after the overnight rise in some US prime rates to 12 per cent.

The authorities took £364m of bills first thing at established rates, and followed with purchases of a further £344m of bills at midday.

By this time, houses had taken money at rates mostly between 8 1/4 and 8 per cent, and were not prepared to pay much above 7 1/2 per cent for further funds.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

A drab end to the week saw sterling trying to recoup opening weakness against the dollar and Eurocurrencies, but it failed to make up more than half the day's fall.

After trying to pass \$1.43 after lunch, it finished 55 points down at 1.4285. Its trade-weighted index ended 0.02 down at 79.8, the same as at noon.

The pound finished down 2 centimes against the franc at 11.5250, 0.75 of a penny at DM3.7475, 0.5 a cent to the guilder at 4.2275, but unchanged to Swiss francs at 3.11. It lost a yen at 322, against almost 2 yen earlier.

In quiet afternoon conditions, the dollar lost a good deal of its early strength as American unemployment figures were unchanged and Fed fund rates opened lower. After highs above 2.63, the dollar closed 35 points better to the mark at 2.6205; a centime better to French francs at 8.0650, 0.25 of a centime to Swiss francs at 2.1740 and 30 points to the yen at 225.30.

TEMPUS

Yorkshire Chemicals hit by accounting snag

After 12 months of confident talk about recovery the Yorkshire Chemicals profit bandwagon came to a shuddering stop yesterday. Pretax profits were less than half the £1.3m which had been expected, mainly due to the discovery of a £500,000 shortfall in the stock figure. The discrepancy resulted from a deficiency in accounting procedures and inaccuracies on the weight and concentration of products delivered.

The problems have now been resolved, but the management has been working on unsound figures for the entire financial year, leading to an overstatement of both profit margins and expectations. It is a bitter blow to Yorkshire Chemicals.

Yorkshire Chemicals still does 80 per cent of its business overseas and suffers more than most at the hands of foreign currency fluctuations. The second half of the year brought bad news on this front - realized gains of £151,000 in the first six months made way for losses of £84,000, and sales and margins ended £300,000 lower than they had been translated at the average rates prevailing in the first half.

The stock market penalized share price sharply yesterday bringing it down 10p from its high for the year of 69p to 59p.

The reaction to the poor results was understandable, but with the stock problems out of the way and the pound weakening against the dollar, the company will not be too disheartened. The benefits of improved stock control, a new currency management effort and improving world markets should all begin to filter through in 1984.

Lyle Shipping tumbled 14p to 80p on the plunge into losses. I D and S Rivin, the little textile group where both Mr David Wickins and Mr Michael Ashcroft have built up shareholdings, spurred 19p to 93p. Hartons Group, continued to respond to its 400 per cent profit jump, hitting 52p. Brewers G Riddle came in for attention gaining 11p to 176p.

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Continuing speculation that Mr Robert Holmes & Court is increasing its shareholding in Fleet Holdings, the Express newspaper group, added 2p to the shares at 164p.

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quoted companies in the shipping sector.

Shipping analysts have been arguing that freight rates for bulk carriers need to increase by up to 50 per cent before shipowners achieve a worthwhile return on capital, so nobody was expecting good news from Lyle Shipping's results for 1983.

But with only the barest indication that rates are beginning to harden and a near doubling of losses from shipping activities to £8.2m, the market marked down Lyle shares by 14p to 80p on yesterday's figures.

Pretax losses of £5.04m, against losses of £4.7m last time, would have been much worse without the inclusion of a £3.4m credit, set aside from last year to take account of the anticipated rating problem in 1983.

The rather grim-looking balance sheet also included a nasty jolt in the shape of a turnaround from profits of £1.4m from offshore services in 1982 to losses of £1.17m last time.

Here the problems have been caused by a lack of activity in the North Sea, where the division depends upon fabrication and diving support work in the development and maintenance phases of oilfield development.

Even Lyle's diversification into electronics through its acquisition of a computer process-control business led to losses of £141,000, offset partly by profits of £36,000 from separate computer distribution venture.

Lyle is also nervous about the Japanese Sanko group moving from the tanker business to freight, by buying 100 new freighters which will compete directly with two 40,000-tonne general cargo vessels which the group has on order.

Lyle is so heavily locked into the shipping and offshore business that its only hope is a dramatic increase in freight rates to ease its high gearing and improve cash flow. It seems that 1984 will not be the year when the company returns to profit.

The new 35 per cent basic corporate tax rate will be below the world average and companies with overseas subsidiaries will find this an incentive to remit profits to Britain. There might also be a switch of corporate borrowing from a British parent to a foreign subsidiary, with a higher rate of tax, which would reduce the net interest payable. This again transfers profits from abroad to Britain. Banks in particular, are believed to be actively considering this option.

The continuing overcapacity in world shipping rates continues to take its toll of British fleets and the small number of

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Budget changes to the corporation tax regime are still to be analysed in depth. Many companies are insisting that the tax position is not a criterion for investment, but it is clear that any valid decision cannot be taken without assessing the tax effect on returns.

The point is emphasized by the latest research, from W. Greenwall, the broker. Its comprehensive analysis shows that windfall gains on existing assets are 12 per cent of their cost after the fall in basic rate corporation tax.

Bringing forward investments into an earlier year can save up to 9 per cent on the cost of assets, although cash flow after maintaining an investment will be hit hard, especially in 1985 and 1986.

Any company which has not reviewed its investment plans and its deferred taxation provisions for the next few years would be well advised to take a look at Greenwall's research. It is apparent that there is much work to be done in the traditional areas of discounted cash flow and sensitivity analysis. No company likes to think it is being dictated to by the tax system but when there are genuine benefits available by taking investment policy to the tax changes it becomes churlish to ignore them.

The benefits to company post-tax profits and share valuation will be most noted in the stores, electrical and insurance sectors, where many companies have had high effective tax rates which will now drop sharply.

During the recession their pretax profits were rising faster than their post-tax profits. This process is now likely to go into reverse.

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OPPENHEIMER INTERNATIONAL GROWTH TRUST

BEST PERFORMING INTERNATIONAL UNIT TRUST

OVER 1, 3, 4 AND 5 YEARS **£22,225**

£20,155

£14,390

£12,340

£8,690

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th

1 YEAR 2 YEARS 3 YEARS 4 YEARS 5 YEARS

(Results of a £5,000 investment held to 1st April 1984 for the period indicated - Source: Planned Savings Statistics. Offer to offer price, net income reinvested.)

The Oppenheimer International Growth Trust is actively managed by our specialist team based in London and New York. An excellent example of the success of our management strategy was the decision last summer to switch the emphasis of the investments towards Japan. In this way, we caught the rising tide of the Tokyo stockmarket.

Naturally, as with any unit trust, the price of these units - and the income from them - may go down as well as up. However, as the figures above show, the results achieved for investors in the short term and the long term give a strong indication of the quality of the management involved in this Trust.

THE FUTURE

World stockmarkets are going through an uncertain phase - making it much more difficult for investors to select one in preference to another. A fully international investment, managed by experts with a track record beyond question, makes a great deal of sense. As an example the trust's portfolio was as follows on the 26th March 1984:-

Country	% of Portfolio	Country	% of Portfolio
UK	37.2	Europe (continued)	
Japan	24.2	USA	12.2
Europe	19.0	Norway	

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£351m offered for Delfont issue

By Philip Robinson

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Investors rushed to get a stake in Lord Delfont's First Leisure Corporation which makes its stock market debut on Thursday. The new issue was 32.5 times oversubscribed.

That meant the 100,000 applications contained requests for 195 million shares worth £351m. On offer were six million shares at 180p each, and valued at £10.8m.

As a result, preferential applications from employees have been accepted in full and the remaining applications have been scaled down.

Weighted ballots will be held for allocation of between 200 shares and 20,000 shares. Those who applied for more than 25,000 shares will get 3 per cent of the application.

The oversubscription virtually guarantees a premium on the shares. Some market trades indicate it will be between 20p and 30p.

In brief

WILSON (CONVOLL) HOLDINGS: The company has entered into a contract to acquire the whole issued share capital of Chowns with immediate effect. Consideration is approximately £2.18m and will be satisfied by the issue of approximately 1,121m new ordinary shares in Wilson.

HOSPITAL PLACINGS: Nationwide Hospitals is raising £952,000 by way of placing through Hill Woollgar & Co of £50,000 ordinary £1 shares at 112p per share.

F H TOMKINS: The purchase of Ferrari Piston Service by the company was completed on Thursday with effect from January 1, 1984. The consideration is £2.2m in cash, of which £1.7m was paid on completion.

DEREK BRYANT GROUP: The chairman, Mr D Bryant, told the annual meeting yesterday, that the company's immediate aim and priority was to broaden business base, and at the same time, to expand management staff so as to reduce dependence on any one business source.

THURGAR BARDEX: No dividend for 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 8,959 (8,146). Profits before int 180 (200). Int 205 (204). Tax before int 25 (4). Tax nil (nil). Shares unchanged at 122.

BR MOHAIH HLDGS: The company is to acquire, with effect from December 31, 1983, Jewel azor Co, its subsidiary and associates. Consideration is 900,000 pay in cash. The book value of the net assets is £246,000. Net profit after deducting all charges except tax for the period ended December 31, 1983 amounted to 231,000.

HAY AND ROBERTSON: Six months to December 2, 1983. No dividend. Turnover £58,424. Profit before tax £3,736. No int. Extraordinary £4,230.

CARLESS CAPEL AND DONARD: The company has acquired Bulldog Petroleum for a consideration consisting of the aggregate of £1,300m and the value of the net assets of building.

WALL STREET

APR 6	APR 5	APR 4	APR 3	APR 2	APR 1
AMF Inc	13 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2
AMR	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Chem	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa Ind	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa Int	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa Pac	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa S	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa W	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa X	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa Y	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa Z	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AA	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AB	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AC	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AD	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AE	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AF	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AG	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AH	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AI	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AJ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AK	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AL	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AM	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AN	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AO	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AP	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AQ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AR	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AS	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AT	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AU	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AV	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AW	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AX	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AY	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa AZ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BA	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BB	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BC	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BD	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BE	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BF	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BG	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BH	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BI	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BJ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BK	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BL	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BM	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BN	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BO	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BP	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BQ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BR	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BS	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BT	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BU	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BV	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BW	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BX	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BY	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa BZ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CA	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CB	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CC	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CD	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CE	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CF	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CG	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CH	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CI	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CJ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CK	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CL	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CM	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CN	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CO	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CP	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CQ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CR	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CS	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CT	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CU	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CV	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CW	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CX	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CY	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa CZ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DA	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DB	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DC	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DD	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DE	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DF	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DG	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DH	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DI	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DJ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DK	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DL	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DM	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DN	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DO	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DP	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DQ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DR	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DS	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DT	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DU	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DV	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DW	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DX	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa DY	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
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Alcoa EA	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EB	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EC	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa ED	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EE	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EF	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EG	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
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Alcoa EI	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EJ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EK	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EL	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EM	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EN	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EO	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EP	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EQ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa ER	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa ES	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa ET	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EU	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EV	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EW	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa EX	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
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Alcoa FA	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
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Alcoa FC	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FD	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FE	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FF	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FG	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FH	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FI	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FJ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FK	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FL	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FM	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FN	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FO	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FP	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FQ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FR	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FS	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FT	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FU	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FV	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FW	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FX	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FY	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa FZ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GA	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GB	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GC	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GD	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GE	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GF	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GH	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GI	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GJ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GK	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GL	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GM	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GN	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GO	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GP	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GQ	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa GR	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2</	

FAMILY MONEY

LOANS

Cash offer with strings

Remortgages for any purpose, 100 per cent home loans and pension-linked schemes, are all available from Chase de Vere, the financial advisers. Money on first or second remortgages is on offer at 11.5 per cent for loans of £25,000 upwards. You can borrow up to 90 per cent of the value of the property up to a maximum of £60,000. The only drawback is that straight repayment loans are not available - it has to be linked to a life policy or a personal pension plan.

Professional people who are first-time buyers can borrow 100 per cent of the cost of their home with an upper limit of £100,000 at an interest rate of 11.5 per cent. Both endowment and repayment loans are available.

Other borrowers can obtain 100 per cent loans up to a maximum of £40,000 on a multiple to three times income at an interest rate of between 10.75 per cent to 11.5 per cent. Details may be had from Mr Paul Marks, Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, SW1. Tel: 01-930 7242.

Pension bonus

Clerical Medical and General, one of the top performers in the life and pensions business, is offering a bonus to anyone who buys a personal pension plan between now and September: the second and third monthly premiums will be paid by CMG and G up to a maximum of £100 a month. Those eligible to buy personal pension plans are the self-employed and anyone who is not a member of an occupational pension scheme.

All-in cover

Alliance Building Society has joined the ranks of building societies offering an all-in-one buildings and contents package to homeowners.

The new scheme provides index-linked cover for all the normal perils for general buildings insurance, with no excess on claims apart from the usual £500 excess for subsidence. House contents are automatically insured for replacement cost of up to £30,000 so that there is no requirement to specify a sum insured. Premiums fall into one of three rate bands - £2.80 for buildings and contents per £1,000 rebuilding costs in the lowest rated areas; £3.20 per £1,000 rebuilding costs in intermediate areas, rising to a top rate of £4.50 for each £1,000 of cover in areas like central London.

Spa bond improves

Leamington Spa Building Society is improving the terms on its new Spa Bond from 8.0 per cent to 8.25 per cent net of basic rate tax. Unlike most other building society investments, the interest rate does not vary but is fixed for the 12 months term.

Minimum investment is £2,000. Details

from Leamington Spa Building Society, PO Box 1, Imperial House, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa CV32 4J. Tel: 0226 27920. This is a limited offer.

Society guide

Everything you always wanted to know about building society accounts, the different interest rates offered, terms and conditions, is available from Information Presentation, which produces *The Best of Building Society Investments*.

The service is aimed at professionals but individuals can buy a copy of the monthly report for £3.95. The annual subscription costs £35. Anyone with £1,000 or more to invest in a building society should be able to get his copy of £3.95 back by following the advice offered in the report and moving money to a society or account offering a higher return.

Some of the best buys being recommended include Maitros's five-year bonds paying 8.5 per cent net of basic rate tax. Property Owners' six-month share paying 8.1 per cent. Bohans's three-month shares offering 8 per cent, but there is a host of others. Details from Information Presentation, 30 Fleet Lane, London EC4M 4YA. Tel: 01-236 0562.

New loan scheme

Legal and General and the Bank of Scotland have set up a new loan back facility related to personal pension plans. The sum that the bank will lend is based on the cash available at retirement through one of the Legal and General's range of self-employed or executive pension plans.

This loan can be used for personal expenditure - buying a first home, home improvements - or for business purposes. Repayment is normally on an interest-only basis, with the capital being repaid at the end of the loan term.



Paul Daniels' magic scheme

Helping children

Children rank lower than animals in the public perception so far as charitable donations are concerned. But in its centenary year celebrations, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is trying to get children themselves interested.

The Give An Hour for a Child sponsorship scheme is being promoted through Midland Bank branches which have entry forms. Children are being encouraged to get sponsors to put up money for each minute of some worthwhile activity they undertake, such as window cleaning for an old person, or gardening for a disabled couple. Money raised goes to the NSPCC and is paid in through the Midland Bank branches. Every child who takes part has his or her name entered in a draw and 70 will be selected to attend a grand party at the end of the year.

Mr Paul Daniels, the magician, is helping to promote the scheme with the slogan "Helping Children is Magic".

Executive prospects

Norwich Building Society is promoting its Executive Mortgage Scheme, which allows young professionals to borrow a multiple of their expected earnings in five years' time - rather than the conventional multiple of current income.

The scheme is aimed at the young executive on a present salary of £10,000 or more, who is confident about work prospects. Up to £40,000 can be borrowed based on salary expectations in five years. At the start of the mortgage the monthly payments are calculated on a much reduced loan figure, rising annually until in the sixth year they reflect the full cost of the loan. The drawback is that the Norwich will charge 2 per cent more for this facility, although the loan is rearranged in year six.

New chairman

The World Wildlife Fund has got a City businessman as its new United Kingdom chairman. Mr Tim Walker, a director of fund managers, Henderson Administration, has taken over from the former UK chairman of the fund Sir Arthur Norman.

In for a duck

Greenwich Building Society's Adopt-A-Duck saving scheme, has reached the end of the first year's operations, and has been a resounding success.

The scheme, run in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust, has attracted more than 1,500 investors, each of whom has received a year's subscription to the trust's duck adoption programme, paid by the Greenwich. This helps the trust's conservation programme. The scheme has a wide appeal for children but at the end of the first year 50 per cent of its investors were discovered to be adults. More information available from Jane Sward on 0227 59355.

T & C new service

Town & Country building society joins that elite brigade of six building societies offering banking type services with interest on investments. Town & Country's Moneywise accounts pays the full ordinary share rate of 6.25 per cent, offers chequebook and standing order facilities along with a Visa credit card and personal loan facilities through Co-op Bank.

Investors must maintain a minimum balance of £250 and if the balance falls below this figure they will be charged 50p for every cheque written. The account compares very favourably with the market leader, the Alliance Building Society's Banksaver account and either are well worth considering as a viable alternative to a straightforward bank account.

Guaranteed bonds

Guaranteed income bonds paying as much as 8 per cent net of basic rate tax are available from British National Life - provided you are prepared to lock your money up for at least eight years. If that sounds like too long a term, you can get 8.25 per cent for a three-year investment with BNL. English Insurance, a member of the General Accident group, is paying 7.7 per cent on one or two-year guaranteed income bonds with a minimum of £2,000. Over five years, Continental Life offers 8.25 per cent guaranteed with a minimum investment of £2,500. In all cases higher rate taxpayers could have a further tax liability.

Co-op link-up

The North Eastern Co-operative Society is linking up with the Co-op Bank and the North of England Building Society to set up a chain of in-store finance centres offering banking facilities, mortgages, and

other financial services such as payment facilities for gas, electricity, rates, telephone bills and catalogue accounts. At present, there are six centres in operation but by the summer there will be 41 throughout the North East.

Tax answers

Just two weeks after the Budget *The Sunday Telegraph* has published an excellent up-to-date tax guide, *101 Ways of Saving Tax*. It contains the many tax changes contained in the Budget and answers numerous questions posed by the tax form such as: What can I do about VAT? Where should I invest my capital? What is the new position regarding life assurance premiums?

The book is available from leading bookshops price £1.95 or direct from the *Sunday Telegraph*, Dept WQST, 135 Fleet Street, London EC4A, price £2.50.

US cover

A new fly-drive insurance package for motorists visiting the USA covers with the vexed question of uninsured motorists' liability - a loophole which can leave motorists visiting the States dangerously exposed.

Car drivers are offered up to \$2m (£1.4m) of cover for a flat premium of £56 for a two week period, or £26 for each additional week. "The USA insurance laws are obviously inadequate", said Mr Mike McRae of Budget Rent a Car which produced the package. "Too often our customers travelling to the USA were running the risk of having insufficient cover to pay the cost of compensation awarded against them after an accident or of being unable to recover compensation paid to them when injured by a hit and run, uninsured or inadequately insured motorist".

WINE

Taking a taste of your investment

Few wine investors have the opportunity to assess how their stocks are developing on a wide enough scale to consider either the potential for future appreciation or the correct time for sale.

A natural reluctance to open a sealed wooden case of a maturing wine - thereby reducing its value more than pro rata - and the inconvenience and cost of its removal from customs bond, effectively prohibit sampling and true investment evaluation.

Now Sotheby's, one of Britain's two leading wine auctioneers, has taken the initiative and is arranging four sessions over May 2 and 4 to take part in tutored tastings of the majority of the classified growths of claret from the important 1975 vintage. As Mr Patrick Grubb, one of their masters of wine, says: "There has been some recent conjecture and controversy that the earlier promise of a slow maturing vintage of great quality may never be realized".

In view of the publicity given to clarets of the 1975 vintage, this series of tastings should assure investors that in general the quality of that year is

extremely good. Where possible, samples have been drawn from stocks at each chateau to ensure that bottles are least affected by possible subsequent storage conditions.

Sotheby's will show 24 estates from St Julien, Margaux and Cantenac, including Chateau Margaux itself, at the first session on May 2 from 11am to 1pm, at £36 each. In the afternoon, 17 wines from St Estephe and Pauillac including Lafite-Rothschild and Mouton-Rothschild will be shown for £38.

The Premiers Grands Crus Classes of St Emilion and Grands Crus of 1975 Pomerol, including Ausone, Cheval Blanc and fabled Petrus, will be shown for £44 on the morning of May 4. The Graves, like Haut-Brion, and Mdoc-Sud will be shown for £30 in the afternoon.

The cost for all four sessions is £130. The tastings will be held at the Grosvenor Gallery, off Bloomfield Place, London W1, but in view of the expected demand, early booking is advised through the Wine Department, Sotheby Parke Bernet and Co, 34 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA.

Conal Gregory

MORTGAGES

Borrowing all set to change pattern

Homeowners with endowment-linked mortgages who may be thinking of refinancing will find things complicated by the Budget removal of tax relief on life policies. In the past they would simply have increased the sum assured under their mortgage endowment, probably extending the term at the same time - and carry on as before with the new premiums. Now, if they attempt to alter the terms of their existing endowment policies to take account of a bigger home loan, they will find that they lose the tax relief on their policy.

The day of the mixed mortgage is dawning as more and more homeowners find that the best solution for them is to hang on to their existing endowment policies which attract tax relief, and add straight repayment mortgages to fill any gaps.

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, already has 5.38 per cent of its mortgages on a part endowment/part repayment basis, and the number is gradually rising. When the Chancellor abolished life insurance premium relief for new policies he also decreed that existing policies would lose their tax relief if the terms were varied in any way.

In the past most people who moved house and wanted to increase their mortgage would either extend their existing policy, or take out a new endowment policy to increase their cover. In some respects there was an advantage in taking out a new policy because existing policies that had been running some time were taken out on a younger life and were better left undisturbed.

Now it is essential for people moving house to leave their existing endowment policies undisturbed to retain tax relief. But because new policies do not qualify for tax relief a repayment mortgage will probably be cheaper.

Abbey National building society said that in the past most mixed mortgages were basically endowment policies where the customer wanted a small top-up of £1,000 or £2,000 for improvement work, and it was not worth taking out a further endowment policy for such a small sum.

But now, every time someone with an endowment policy qualifies for tax relief moves house and wants a higher mortgage he or she will probably join the mixed mortgage set.

Vivien Goldsmith

IMPORTANT
Building Society
investors please read

M&G PLANNED INCOME PORTFOLIO

The M&G Planned Income Portfolio, based on five high yielding M&G unit trusts, is designed to provide twelve income payments spread over the year. At 4th April 1984 the estimated gross yield on the Portfolio was 7.4%, over 65% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index. This yield is based on a Portfolio of £3,000 of which £1,000 is invested in M&G Gift and £500 in each of the other four Funds. This will provide the income distributed net of basic-rate tax in roughly equal amounts but you can also arrange to receive larger amounts at times of the year when your commitments are high (please see distribution dates in the table below).

The table on the right illustrates M&G's successful record of providing unit trust investors with increasing income over the years. Past performance is no guarantee of the future, but it is expected that income from this Portfolio will continue to grow in future. This is in contrast to a Bank or Building Society deposit, where the income can vary only in line with the general level of interest rates. The table compares the income which you would have received over the last ten years from a Building Society deposit with an investment in four M&G unit trusts.

COMPARISON TABLE

Annual income from an investment of £12,000

Year	Building Society ¹	Four M&G unit trusts ²
1974	£ 900	£ 671
1975	£ 865	£ 811
1976	£ 830	£ 902
1977	£ 840	£1,050
1978	£ 755	£1,225
1979	£1,015	£1,385
1980	£1,260	£1,579
1981	£1,087	£1,604
1982	£1,024	£1,614
1983	£ 810	£1,666

NOTES: 1. Net of tax to basic rate taxpayer. 2. Based on the Building Societies' Association's recommended rate of return on fully paid shares. 3. £3,000 invested in each of M&G Dividend, High Income, Extra Yield, and Conversion Income Funds on 2nd January 1974. M&G Gift was not launched until 1980.

In addition to generating income totalling £12,507, your £12,000 capital invested in these unit trusts would have grown to £37,799 by 4th April 1984. In contrast a comparable Building Society deposit would still be worth only £12,000, and your income from it would have totalled just £9,386 over the ten years.

However, you should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Unit trusts are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The five funds described here are all designed to produce above average and increasing income with the exception of M&G Gift, which is designed to produce a high initial income.

Dividend Fund aims for a yield about 50% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index from a wide range of ordinary shares.

High Income Fund and Extra Yield Fund both aim for a yield about 60% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index, from a portfolio of ordinary shares.

Conversion Income Fund aims to provide a similar return, but its portfolio of ordinary shares has a strong bias towards smaller companies.

Gift & Fixed Interest Income Fund aims to provide a high initial income with prospects of some capital growth, from investment in government securities.

READ THIS TABLE BEFORE INVESTING	DIVIDEND	HIGH INCOME	CONVERSION INCOME	EXTRA YIELD	GIFT
Launch date (approx)	May '64	April '69	Feb '73	Nov '73	Dec '80
Price of income units at 4th April 1984	256.8p	201.1p	134.4p	146.9p	60.5p
Estimated current gross yield	5.81%	6.18%	6.42%	6.65%	9.64%
% rise in Fund offer price since launch	413.6%	302.2%	168.8%	193.8%	21.0%
% rise in F.T. Actuaries Index over same period	381.8%	215.7%	165.4%	198.7%	15.6%
Distribution dates	15 January 15 July	31 January 31 July	31 March 30 September	1 May 1 November	31 March 30 June 30 September 31 December
Trustee	Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited	Clydesdale Bank Plc	Courts & Co.	Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited	Courts & Co.

¹F.T. Government Securities Index

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. Gift Fund bears an annual charge of up to 1%, plus VAT (currently 7.5%), of the Fund's value deducted from net income. The other Funds presently bear an annual charge of 7.5%, deducted from gross income, but during 1984, unit holders will be asked to approve an increase in the annual charge to a maximum of 1%, with the intention of restricting it to not more than 7.5% at least until 1988. Income is distributed on the appropriate dates net of basic rate tax. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for sale or purchase will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. All the Funds are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Gift Fund is a narrower-range investment and all the other Funds are wider-range investments.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

FROM £3,000

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

TO: M&G SECURITIES, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TEL: 01-626 4588.

PLEASE INVEST a total of £ (minimum £3,000) in income units of the following Funds, divided as indicated, at the price ruling on receipt of this application. (If no split is indicated 1/3rd of the total will be invested in Gift and 2/3rd of the total in each of the remaining Funds). Minimum £500 in any one Fund.

DIVIDEND	HIGH INCOME	CONVERSION INCOME	EXTRA YIELD	GIFT
£	£	£	£	£

Member of the Unit Trust Association

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Registered in England No. 80776 Reg Office above This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland

THE M&G GROUP

HIGH INTEREST RATE CHEQUE ACCOUNT from A CLEARING BANK.

8.40%
APPLIED RATE

Bank of Scotland
25 Threadneedle St., London EC2 8BB

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EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE

MONEY MARKET CHEQUE ACCOUNT

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JUST WRITE YOUR CHEQUE •

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AN EXISTING CUSTOMER

All the time your Funds are with us we pay you a high level of interest based on Money Market Rates.

The interest is calculated daily and applied monthly. Your cheques may be made payable to yourself or to a third party. Statements are issued quarterly but more frequently if you wish. There is no charge for the first nine cheques per quarter.

Minimum opening balance £2,500. Minimum transaction £250 other than cheques in settlement of your Bank of Scotland Visa Card Account which may be for a lower sum.

The Rate of interest is set weekly and published daily in Prestel and in the Money Market Bank Accounts Section of the Financial Times.

*Interest Rates quoted correct at time of going to press.

To Bank of Scotland, Prepost, 25 Threadneedle Street, LONDON EC2B 2BB.
I/We wish to open a Money Market Cheque Account. I am/we are aged 18 or over (please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS). Please send me an application form for VISA (tick box).

FULL NAME(S) _____
ADDRESS _____
POST CODE _____
DATE _____

I/We enclose my/our cheque for £ (minimum £2,500) payable to Bank of Scotland. Should the cheque not be drawn on your own bank account, please give details of your bankers.

MY/OUR BANKERS ARE _____
BRANCH _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

For further information tick box (or ask operator for Freephone 8494).

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A British Bank - based in Edinburgh

For joint accounts, all parties must sign the application, but only one signature will be required on cheques.

Quiet end to account

FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	509.68 (512.29)
500 SHARE INDEX	557.82 (560.49)
*EARNINGS YIELD	9.73% (9.75%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.3% (4.28%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.56 (12.82)
ALL SHARE INDEX	516.21 (519.08)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.45% (4.43%)

[illegible]

* Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. d Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. i Pre-merger figures. j Forecast earnings. k Ex capital distribution. l Ex rights. m Ex scrip or share split. n Tax free. o Price adjusted for late dealings. ... No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES		Closing Price
Brit Inv £1 Ord (2)		143
Burmavac 10p Ord (155)		180
CPs Computer 30p Ord (67a)		155-5
Chart J Roths Pac Inv 22p Ord		98
Cambrun Venture		204

Deanna's Electrical 25p Ord (1/62)	110-5
Dewey Warren Hides 10p Ord (1st)	170-0
Diamonds 30p Ord (1st)	108-0
Has Clark Europe 10p Ord (75a)	98-0
Home Phone Group 20p Ord	146-0
Howe's Nat'l Ad 15p Ord (1st)	98-1
Meadow Farm 10p Ord (1/10a)	145-2
Nasham Electronics 30p Ord (1/10a)	205-15
Nat'l Sea & Term Clnt 1st Ord (1/25a)	230-5
Nat'l Phone 30p Ord (1st)	146-8
Peckard Hops Ord (1/15)	230-5
Platoon Int'l 20p Ord (1/25a)	145-5
Postscript Int'l 30p Ord (1st)	205-13
Quintone Int'l 20p Ord (1st)	130-5
Seamstress Hides 25p Ord (75a)	145-5
Sisters Relativity 10p Ord (1/20)	170-5
Top N. A. 1st Ord (1/45a)	108-2
USA 30p Ord (1st)	108-2

DOW JONES INDICES	
SECURITIES	82.79 (82.21)
INDUSTRY	86.58 (85.82)
	856.4 (857.0)
	655.5 (655.4)
END YIELD	4.42% (4.41%)
	9.95% (9.95%)
	12.08 (12.10)
	11.45 (11.47)

Edinburgh Fund Managers
Edinburgh EH3 7JB Tele

plc, 4 Melville Crescent,
phone: 031-226 4931

GART



is much danger of collapse, but probably the best value now to be found in the United States.

S&P Vincent High Inc	101.7	Branniaun Sp Mkt Sit	99.9	Arken Hume Energy	96.
S&P Glt & F Int Grr	101.6	Lloyds BK Energy Int	99.9	S&P Invt Bond	95.
Nat West Capital	101.6	Hill Sam Sp Sits	99.9	Lloyds Life US Gth	95.
Loyds Life Glt	101.6	Brown Shipley Tech	99.9	M&G American & Grl	95.
Frannington Recov	101.6	Care Allen Gth	99.8	Tyndall Intlnt Gth	95.
Arbuthnot Fin and Pr	101.6	Wardley Technology	99.8	LAG Int Mngt	95.
Warrans House	101.5	Allied Mtl Mntd Cmd	99.8	Murray European	95.
Branniaun Pref Share	101.5	TR Overseas Grth	99.7	Target Malaysia Singpor	95.
Holborn Glt	101.5	Chieftain Basic Res	99.7	Target Pref Share	95.
Nelstar Trust	101.5	Wardley Far East Gen	99.7	Crown American	94.
Hill Samuel Cap	101.5	Midland Bk Oseas Gth	99.6	Abbey Amer Gth	94.
Henderson Intl	101.5	Branniaun Gth Grl	99.6	Quadrant Intlnt	94.
Duncan Lawrie Growth	101.5	Royal Life Intl	99.5	GT International	94.
Allied Capital	101.5	Canada & Forgn Intlnt	99.5	TSB American	94.
Lloyds Bk Extn Inc	101.5	TSB General	99.4	Allied Sec of Amer	94.
CT Income	101.4	Discretionary	99.4	Schroder American	93.
Abbey Glt & F Int	101.3	Britan Inv Trst Str	99.4	Proflite North Amer	93.
Legal & General Glt	101.3	Barclayscup Widwde	99.4	Gartmore Far East	93.
James Finl W Energy	101.3	Tyndall Aust Socs	99.3	M&G Far East & Gen	93.
Equity Law Glt Fint	101.3	Lloyds Bk Ind Tech	99.3	Govett Amer Gth	93.
Barclayscup Fin	101.3	HBL Japan & Far E	99.3	Hill Samuel Dollar	93.
Henderson Pref & Gth	101.2	Bridge Intlnt Res	99.2	Wardley American	93.
Archway	101.2	Sec. Prov Index-Linkd	99.2	Kerr Benson Wild Tech	93.
Branniaun Inc & Grr	101.1	New Court Energy Res	99.1	F&C American	93.
TR General Growth	101.0	Nelstar Intlnt	99.1	Branniaun Wrld Tech	93.
Barrington European	101.0	Charlotte Square	99.1	Target Australia	93.
Branniaun Smrl Cos	101.0	NTI Overseas	99.0	Henderson N Amer	93.
Legat Financial	100.9	LAG Intlnt & Gen	99.0	Duncan Lawrie & Peas	93.
M&G Europ & Gen	100.9	CT European	99.0	Cragmount Canadian	92.
Henderson Financial	100.9	Natwest Gthl Strgy	98.9	Cannon N Amer	92.
Henderson High Inc	100.9	TSB International	98.9	TR American Growth	92.
Branniaun Growth	100.9	Chieftain Australian	98.7	Scottish N Amer	92.
Worw Euro Grth	100.8	Mayflower Intlnt	98.7	Targi Amer Eagle	92.
Equity & Law Europe	100.8	S of Ind Bk & Oseas	98.8	Midland Bk N Amer	92.
Brown Shipley Fin	100.8	Austn Friars Growth	98.8	Gie North American	92.
Tyndall Glt Cap	100.7	Henderson Otl Nat Res	98.7	Branniaun Amer	92.
Buckmaster General	100.7	Perpetual Growth	98.7	Britan Amer Spec Sit	92.
Target Invest Tr	100.7	Kwrt Ben Fd Inv Trst	98.7	Frannington Amer Trd	92.
Worw Energy	100.7	Natwest Japan & Pac	98.7	Tyndall North Amer	91.
S&P Glt & F Int Inc	100.7	S&P Universal Gth	98.3	Cragmount N Amer	91.
Midland Bk Capital	100.7	Govett Intlnt Gth	98.3	Buckmaster Intlnt	91.
Aitken Hume Pacific	100.7	Schroder Intlnt	98.2	Schroder Sug Malay	91.
Hill Samuel Fin	100.7	Royal Lond Amer Gth	98.2	Mercury Amer Gth	91.
Wardley Australia	100.7	Bishopst Intlnt	98.2	Henderson Amer Rec	91.
Frannington Tol Perfin	100.7	Mercury European	98.2	Equity & Law N Amer	91.
Schroder Australian	100.6	Brosmop Capital	98.0	Buckmaster Smrl Cos	91.
Schroder Small Cos	100.6	Henderson European	98.0	Lloyds Bk N Amer	91.
S&P New Techn	100.6	S&P Energy Ind	97.9	Crescent American	91.
Proflite Int	100.6	Rown Securities	97.9	HBL North American	90.
Tyndall Fin & Prop	100.6	Hill Samuel Euro	97.9	James Finlay Intlnt	90.
Crown Glt	100.6	Arbuthnot Smrl Cos	97.9	Allied Amer Spec Sit	90.
Canlit Glt & F Int	100.6	3i & Tgt Small Cos	97.8	GT Tech & Growth	90.
Arbuthnot Cap Grrh	100.6	S&P Capital	97.6	Britan Amer Smrl Cos	90.
Arbuthnot Pref Share	100.6	S&P Exploration	97.6	S&W American	90.
Wardley Smrl Cos	100.6	Perpl Worldwide recov	97.6	Natwest N Amer	90.
Key Equity and Gen	100.5	Beckman Internal Cap	97.4	Frannington Amer	90.
Financial Reserve	100.5	McAnally Glen	97.3	S&P US Gth	90.
Fidelity Managed Int	100.5	Brown Shipley N Amer	97.3	Barrington N Amer	90.
Barclayscup Austral	100.5	Perpetual Global Sgy	97.3	Stewarts Amer	90.
Swiss Life Equity	100.4	Perpetual Amer Gth	97.3	Oppenheimer Amer Gth	90.
S&P Smrl Cos Inc	100.4	Frannington Intlnt Gth	97.3	Gartmore Amer	90.
Worw Far East	100.4	S&P US Gth	97.3	Barclayscup Amer	89.
Barclayscup Univ Tech	100.4	Murray European	97.2	Fidelity Intlnt	89.
Arbuthnot East Int	100.4	Manulife Intl Gth	97.2	Arbuthnot Forgth Gth	89.
S&P Inv Trst Intl	100.3	Arbuthnot Comm Share	97.2	M&G Amer Smrl Cos	88.
Bishopsgate Prog	100.3	Branniaun Amer Gth	97.1	Arbuthnot N Amer	88.
Widley Growth	100.3	M&G Ausn & Grl	97.1	Bridge & Gen	88.
Fidelity Income	100.2	Lloyds Bk Widwde Gth	97.0	Ridway America	88.
Chieftain Pref & Glt	100.2	Abbey US Emerging	96.8	Fidelity Amer	88.
Allied Technology	100.2	Henderson Gblt Tech	96.7	Fidel Amer Spec Sit	87.
S&P Commnd Share	100.1	Chieftain Intlnt	96.7	Target Tech	87.
Nat West Financial	100.1	S&P Select Intlnt	96.6	Arken Hume Amer Tr	87.
Henderson Reserve	100.1	Henderson Australian	96.6	Henderson Amer Smrl Cos	86.
Martin Currie	100.0	Wardley World Gth	96.6	New Court Amer	86.
TR Specia Oppors	100.0	Scottish Small Gth	96.3	Chiefta Amer	86.
Stewart European	100.0	S&P European Gth	96.3	GI US & Gen	86.
Proflite Technology	100.0	Target Pacific	96.2	James Capel N Amer	85.
M&G International	100.0	Mercury Intlnt	96.2	Leo Capel	85.
Gartmore Otl Eq Gth	100.0	Henderson Gblt Hcare	96.2	Brit H & K Perfm	85.
Gartmore Otl Equity	100.0	Gartmore Australian	96.2	Gartmore Hong Kong	84.
Tyndall Far East	99.9	Target US Special Bond	96.1	Canada Growth	84.
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Limits to judges' use of the slip rule

No gains tax on statutory compensation

Regina v Cripps, Ex parte Muldoon and Others
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Stephen Brown.
[Judgment delivered April 3]

Order 20, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court (the slip rule) provides that "clerical mistakes in judgments or orders, or errors arising therefrom, may at any time be corrected by the court... without an appeal".

It could not be overemphasized that the slip rule could never entitle the court to reconsider a final and regular decision once it had been perfected, even if it had been obtained by fraud.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Mr Adrian Carnegie Slade from the decision of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann) on May 17, 1983 (The Times, May 28, 1984) (QB 68) granting the petitioners, Mr Denis Muldoon and three others, an order of certiorari to quash a decision of the Divisional Court, QC, of November 3, 1982, varying an order for costs made by him in favour of the petitioners while sitting as commissioner of a local election court.

Mr Timothy Barnes for Mr Slade; Mr Michael Tugendhat for the petitioners.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appeal concerned the aftermath of an election with the petitioners questioning the election of Mr Slade to the Greater London Council as a representative of the Richmond area. The petition had proved a disaster for all concerned and the aftermath was, if possible, worse.

The election was on May 7, 1981. The petitioners alleged that Mr Slade and his agent had been guilty of corrupt or illegal practices under 13 headings.

Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, was appointed under section 115 of the Representation of the People Act 1949 to constitute an election court charged with the duty of trying the petition which he did over 13 days in March 1982.

On March 23, 1982 the commission delivered a long and detailed judgment rejecting all 13 allegations of corrupt practices and all, save two, of the allegations of illegal practices. Those exceptions consisted of (i) an overspending of £4,000; and (ii), which was more serious, the making of an untrue return.

The commissioner granted Mr Slade and his agent relief from the consequences of those illegal practices, upon their paying the petitioners' costs relating to the application for relief.

That left the question of who should pay the costs of the petitioners and Mr Slade in relation to the petition itself, including the trial of the petition which had lasted 13 days. The petitioners said that their costs alone amounted to £42,000.

After hearing argument on the issue of costs the commissioner said that the order was that Mr Slade was

to pay three-quarters of the petitioners' costs to be taxed if not agreed. That was translated into a formal order that Mr Slade "do pay to the petitioners three quarters (75 per cent) of their costs properly incurred in relation to the petition".

There matters rested until October 1982 when after receiving the petitioners' bill of costs, Mr Slade's solicitors obtained an adjournment of the taxation and applied to the commissioner for a clarification of his costs order.

On the application, the commissioner said *inter alia* that he regarded the petitioners' result as being of success of some extent, a technical claim, and that by the use of the words "properly incurred" he had intended to be included the costs relevant to the two matters on which the petitioners were successful.

The Divisional Court had quashed what was described in their order as "direction as to costs given on November 3, 1982, by Mr Anthony Cripps, QC".

The Divisional Court had held that the commissioner had become *functus officio* and hence had no power to correct his decision under any slip rule or otherwise once he had concluded the trial of the petition which had occurred long before November 3, 1982. The court would use the term "*functus officio*" solely in the sense of describing the status of a judge who had finally disposed of proceedings before him of particular issues in those proceedings.

It was well settled that any judge was fully entitled to reconsider and vary any decision at any time before the order embodying or based upon that decision or any obvious justification for a 75 per cent reduction if they were so limited.

Appreciating, as the court did, the sense of injustice which would be done in the light of the course of these proceedings, the court had considered whether it would be just and proper to extend the ambit of

the slip rule, the high water mark of which was *Adam & Harvey Ltd v International Maritime Supplies Co Ltd* (1967) 1 WLR 443.

But to apply the slip rule in the present case would involve correcting an order, not on the basis that in the light of contemporary events or evidence it could be shown to have been irregular for any of a variety of reasons.

The court accepted that if a court had reached a decision which was ambiguous or expressed either in the formal order giving effect to the decision, the ambiguity of expression could be removed in the exercise of slip rule powers.

But the exercise had to be limited to correcting ambiguity in expression of an unambiguous decision. An ambiguous decision was no decision at all.

The commissioner had said that Mr Slade had "to pay three-quarters of the petitioners' costs... to be taxed if not agreed". Whether or not that was just, fair or reasonable was beside the point. It was quite unambiguous. The formal order with the words costs properly incurred in relation to the petition was again quite unambiguous.

On November 3, Mr Cripps had said in terms that he was not going to vary the order which he had made in March 1982. The court would construe the order as providing two limitations upon the costs recoverable by the petitioners.

It was for the Taxing Master and not for Mr Cripps to construe his order. Further, there was not the slightest trace in his judgment of March 23 of any intention that the recoverable costs should be limited to those incurred in relation to two items or any obvious justification for a 75 per cent reduction if they were so limited.

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Drummond (Inspector of Taxes) v Brown
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Stephen Brown.
[Judgment delivered April 6]

Statutory compensation paid to a tenant on his quitting his business premises under section 25 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, was not a sum chargeable to capital gains tax.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the Crown from a decision of Mr Justice Walton (The Times, May 17, 1983) in favour of the taxpayer, Mr Austin Brown.

An application by the Crown for leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

The provisions of section 22 of the 1965 Act are now contained in sections 19 and 20 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.

Since 1959 the taxpayer, Mr Brown, a solicitor, had carried on his practice from leasehold premises in London. In 1977 his landlords

served him with notice under section 25 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 terminating the tenancy and stating that they would oppose any application by him for the grant of a new one. Mr Brown surrendered to the notice.

On quitting the premises he was paid by the landlord compensation of £31,384 under section 27 of the 1954 Act. He was assessed to capital gains tax on that sum.

On May 9, 1983, Mr Justice Walton in the Chancery Division, upholding the determination of the special commissioners discharging that assessment, dismissed the Crown's appeal on the ground that section 22 of the Finance Act 1965 did not apply to bring the compensation payment within the charge to tax.

Mr John Knox, QC and Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown; Mr Peter Millett, QC and Mr David Milne for Mr Brown.

LORD JUSTICE FOX, giving the judgment of the court, said that by section 22(1) of the 1965 Act "all forms of property shall be assets for the purposes of this part of the Act". And by section 22(3) "there is for the purposes of this Part of the

Act a disposal of assets by their owner where any capital sum is derived from assets... and this section applies in particular to any capital sums received by way of compensation for any kind of damage or injury to assets or for the loss, destruction or dissipation of assets."

The Crown contended that the £31,384 was a capital sum derived from an asset, namely the lease, or, in the alternative, that it was compensation for the loss of an asset.

The £31,384 was not derived from the lease. The word "derive" suggested a source. The right to the payment was from one source only, namely the 1954 statute. The lease gave no right to such a payment.

The sum could not be said to be derived from any asset. It was, as Mr Justice Templeman said in *Davis v Powell* (1977) 1 WLR 2581, simply a sum which Parliament said should be paid.

In the circumstances, it was not simply a sum which Parliament said should be paid. It was not accurate to describe it as an "incident" of the lease.

Different considerations would apply in the case of a tenant shortly before the end of his lease

surrendering the flag end for a cash sum. The whole of the cash sum would be assessable to tax. It would be a plain case of a disposal of an asset, that is the residue of the term of the lease.

So far as the Crown's alternative contention was concerned, there was certainly no "loss" of the lease. The lease came to an end by the effluxion of time.

In the circumstances, it was, however, that what was lost was security of tenure. That could not be accepted. Mr Brown was never entitled to a security of tenure in the events that happened (that is, the landlord requiring the premises for its own occupation).

Moreover it was not justifiable to assume that the compensation was given by Parliament for loss of security of tenure. It was not known for precisely what purpose Parliament gave the compensation.

In the circumstances, it was not accepted that the compensation was for the loss of any asset. The result was that Mr Justice Walton's decision was right, as was the decision in *Davis v Powell*. The Crown's case failed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue, Hunters.

Section 65(1) defined small maintenance payments and section 1(1)(a)(ii) required that to qualify as such they had to be payments that would, apart from section 65, fall within either section 32 or section 33 of the 1970 Act (deduction of income tax for annual payments). Those sections both referred to annual payments "charged with tax under Case III of Schedule D. But section 21(2) of that Act expressly provided that payments of supplementary benefits were not to be treated as income for tax purposes.

Plainly therefore, in the recipient's hands supplementary benefits were not taxable. And it was the law that for there to be an annual payment within either sections 32 and 33 one looked to the taxability of the payment in the recipient's hands. (There could be no question of the secretary of state being charged to tax in respect of them.) Thus Mr Tacey had made payments that were not charged with tax under Case III of Schedule D because of the provisions of section 21(2).

Accordingly, the commissioners had erred in holding that the payments made by Mr Tacey under the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976, were deductible for tax purposes as being small maintenance payments within the meaning of section 65 of the Act. The appeal was allowed. The Crown did not seek an order for costs against Mr Tacey.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Video hirers caught by Sunday shops law

Lewis and Another v Rogers Gardner v Duffield
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann.
[Judgment delivered April 2]

Premises used for hiring video films to members of the public were shops for the purposes of the Shops Act 1950 and could contravene the Sunday trading provisions by serving customers on a Sunday.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing two appeals by way of case stated, the first by the occupiers of premises in Maidstone against their conviction by Maidstone Justices on May 24, 1983 of trading on a Sunday in contravention of section 47 of the 1950 Act, and the second by the occupier of premises in Wolverhampton against his conviction of the same offence by the Wolverhampton Justices on June 13, 1983.

Mr Andrew Patience for the Maidstone appellants; Mr Anthony Barker for the Wolverhampton appellant; Mr Gregory Stone for the respondents in both appeals.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that by section 74(1) of the 1950 Act "shop" includes any premises where any retail trade or business is carried on. To conduct a business of hiring tapes to members of the public in premises which had the characteristics of a shop could make those premises a shop within the meaning of the 1950 Act.

However, in both cases below the issue seemed not to have been as to "shop" but as to "any premises where any retail trade or business is carried on". Those words expanded the ordinary meaning of "shop".

Further, an ordinary user of the English language would regard the customers attending the Wolverhampton premises as members of a "club". They were members of the public who were prepared to pay £5 for the opportunity during their lifetime or as long as the premises stood, to hire tapes at the current hire charge.

Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed. Solicitors: Gulland & Gulland, Maidstone; Mr K. B. Rogers, Maidstone; David Goulding & Co, Wolverhampton; Mr Michael Duffell, Wolverhampton.

No tax relief on payments under benefits order

McBurnie (Inspector of Taxes) v Tacey
Before Mr Justice Peter Gibson.
[Judgment delivered March 30]

Weekly payments made by a husband towards the maintenance of his children under an order of the court pursuant to section 18 of the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976, could not for income tax purposes be deducted in computing the husband's total income.

Mr Justice Peter Gibson so held in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal by the Crown from a determination of the Hereford General Commissioners who had allowed a claim by Mr Charles Tacey to make such deductions for the years of assessment from 1979 to 1982.

Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown; Mr Tacey did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE GIBSON said that Mr Tacey was separated from his wife who received supplementary benefit payments to maintain their two children. On April 9, 1979, following a complaint to the court by the Supplementary Benefits Commission, magistrates, pursuant to section 18 of the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976, ordered Mr Tacey to pay to the Secretary of State for Social Services weekly sums of £9 and £7 in respect of his two children.

Before the general commissioners Mr Tacey had successfully argued that those payments were small maintenance payments within the meaning of section 65 of the Act. The appeal was allowed. The Crown did not seek an order for costs against Mr Tacey.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Section 65(1) defined small maintenance payments and section 1(1)(a)(ii) required that to qualify as such they had to be payments that would, apart from section 65, fall within either section 32 or section 33 of the 1970 Act (deduction of income tax for annual payments). Those sections both referred to annual payments "charged with tax under Case III of Schedule D. But section 21(2) of that Act expressly provided that payments of supplementary benefits were not to be treated as income for tax purposes.

Plainly therefore, in the recipient's hands supplementary benefits were not taxable. And it was the law that for there to be an annual payment within either sections 32 and 33 one looked to the taxability of the payment in the recipient's hands. (There could be no question of the secretary of state being charged to tax in respect of them.) Thus Mr Tacey had made payments that were not charged with tax under Case III of Schedule D because of the provisions of section 21(2).

Accordingly, the commissioners had erred in holding that the payments made by Mr Tacey under the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976, were deductible for tax purposes as being small maintenance payments within the meaning of section 65 of the Act. The appeal was allowed. The Crown did not seek an order for costs against Mr Tacey.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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Plainly therefore, in the recipient's hands supplementary benefits were not taxable. And it was the law that for there to be an annual payment within either sections 32 and 33 one looked to the taxability of the payment in the recipient's hands. (There could be no question of the secretary of state being charged to tax in respect of them.) Thus Mr Tacey had made payments that were not charged with tax under Case III of Schedule D because of the provisions of section 21(2).

Accordingly, the commissioners had erred in holding that the payments made by Mr Tacey under the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976, were deductible for tax purposes as being small maintenance payments within the meaning of section 65 of the Act. The appeal was allowed. The Crown did not seek an order for costs against Mr Tacey.

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Construing documents

Plomb Brothers v Dolmar (Agriculture) Ltd
In construing documents the true intention of the parties was to be determined from the words of the documents in the light of the circumstances surrounding the relevant transaction.

The Court of Appeal so held on April 2 allowing an appeal by a tenant from a decision of Judge Wild at Cambridge County Court on April 20, 1983, on a special case stated by an arbitrator under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1948. The arbitrator had arisen as a result of landlords of agricultural land wishing to increase the rent.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS, sitting with LORD JUSTICE MAY, said that with Lord Justice Purchas, said that there was a recent tendency to speak of construing documents against the "factual matrix". That was the modern way of saying that one had to look at all the circumstances at the time of the transaction. The true intention of the parties was to be determined from the words of the documents themselves in the light of the circumstances surrounding the relevant transaction.

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Salmon Leap to rise

McHargue makes an instant impact

L'Oranger seeks to emulate Ma Biche

By Michael Seely

Darrel McHargue, put his one-day temporary work permit to good use at Kempton Park yesterday.

The disappointment of the Lancaster Stakes was the running of Senarius. The 6-5 favourite was

Erin Desmond Stables

seeks
to emulate
Ma Biche
From Desmond Stoney
Paris

L'Orangerie earned a run in 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket, making yesterday's event a foregone conclusion.

Pit Imprudence at Maisons
L'Orangerie was the 2-1 favourite in the 1,000 Guineas, but a short head from the 2-1 favourite, Ma Biche, Arriance was lengthwise ahead in front of the 2-1 favourite, Ma Biche.

Both Freddie Head on Front
L'Orangerie and Yves Saint-Martin were extremely gentle in their partners and it was left to the jockey to sort out the two fillies and finish.

The winning trainer, Crique Head, said: "L'Orangerie is a lot

thirty. She will come on a lot of
together to see my Guineas with
together with my mother and
goes for the Prix d'Essai
Poulaines
Diamond looked extremely u
the morning the Prix Disab
group two lengths from Pol
and this colt will go for the
10,000 Guineas.
The group two Prix Grefful
Longwood tomorrow.
recomposed classic trial, has cu
and there will be a maximum
of just four runners. This has ca
Longwood.
was intending to run just Long
but now seems obliged to
saddle Acland, who was inter
for the day's Tierce handicap.
win this ten and a half furlong
and may be followed home by
Agua Khan's Darshan. Long
headed the French Free Hand
and the French Free Hand
Some useful fillets contest
Prix de la Grotte, a prelude to

**Poule d'essais des Pouliches (Fr)
1,000 Guineas) on April 29.**

	NOVICE	HANDICAP
2m 40 (10)		

[illegible]

LY (D) R Hodges 5-10-2 _____ S E
ACK R Armytaga 10-10-0 _____ M Armytaga

12-13 to Woodcut (12-13) to Woodcut, 13-14
 Jade And Diamond, 100-38 Dalbury, 13-3
 2 Jungle Jim, 14 others.
ENTER CHASE (amateurs: £2,4
 (D) Lady Oaksey 11-12-1 ...Miss L. Lawr
 T RANGER (D) Mrs M Filmer 10-12-1
 ASH
 (D) T Clay 13-12-1 ...T C
 (D) M. J. ...12-1
 (D) M. J. ...12-1

COURT (D) Mrs O Jackson 13-12-1
R J Begg
ROY J Gifford 8-11-11
R Hagg

[illegible]

LADY J Jefferson 8-11 **D Nicholls**
PRESS D Plant 8-11 **B Cooper**

NICAP (21,909: 1m) (19)
 (D) C Chapman 4-10-7 (7 ad)
 (D) M H Easterly 4-11 ————
 (J) J Sorenson 4-9-6 —————
 (J) J Watson 4-8-6 —————
 (D) D Chapman 6-8-6 —————
 (C) Britton 4-0 —————
PRINCE (D) M Ryan 5-9-6 M Foster 7
 (M) Ryan 5-9-6 —————
SPRAGUE (D) Niles S Hall 5-8 ———
 (D) R Hoffmann 7-8-7 ———
 (D) M H Easterly 4-2-5 —K Hogarth
 Tenor 4-2-5 —————
 (C) G Herman 5-5-4 —————
 (W) W West 4-2-5 —————
 (A) A Potts 4-2-5 —————
 (M) C Mackenzie 5-7-10 ———
MATERS J Sorenson 4-7-6 **JON-RUNNERS**
 (W) West 4-2-5 —————
 7 Esom, 6 Quaker Prince, 10 Sunny
 Havana, Blarin, Silley's Knight, 14 Betty
 Havana.

HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,200: 5f) (8)

(D) A Whisker 9-7 P Doughty 7
 Chapman 9-8 D Huchitt
 Brookshire 9-4 M Miller
 (D) B Stubbs 9-3 S Westover
 S Hix 9-1 E Hix
 H Hobson 8-12
 Taylor 8-7
 CRESSY G Fletcher 8-5 A Bond
 4 year & a Pat. 11-2 Trid Treble, 8
 14 Balpers.

ES (£1,293:1m 4f)(11)

WIDE (D) M Jarvis 4-8-B Raymond
 N Candy 5-8-2 A Bond
 D Platt 4-8-2 B Coogan
 J M McCormack 4-8-2 J Reid
 J C Jetterton 7-9-2 M Wood
 ANCHER Jersey 5-9-7 S Westover
 D Gifford
 Hollnhead 5-8-0 W Ryan 5
 ITTSUN G Harman 3-0-0 J Bredford

Harwood 3-6-0 A Clerk
Whitaker 3-7-11 P Doughty 7

The former Northern jumbo key Martin Blackshaw pays a visit from his Chantrelle to saddle Southern Bird Mablethorpe long distance services' Hurdle at Market Rasen day.

The five-year-old, described by Blackshaw as "almost impossible to ride because of her bad legs", won the French provinces last November and finished second only start since.

She will be ridden by Stuart Gregg, formerly attached to David

ons.

Football and other weekend fixtures

First division

Arsenal v Stoke C
Aston Villa v Coventry C
Liverpool v West Ham
Luton T v Everton
Manchester Utd v Birmingham C
Norwich C v Watford
Nottingham F v West Bromwich
QPR v Ipswich T
Southampton v Leicester C
Sunderland v Tottenham H
Wolverhampton W v Notts C

Second division

Blackburn R v Middlesbrough
Brighton v Gillingham T
Cambridge Utd v Notts C
Cardiff Utd v Cardiff Utd
Charlton A v Newcastle Utd
Chelsea v Fulham
Derby County v Crystal Palace
Huddersfield T v Barnsley
Oldham A v Shrewsbury T
Sheffield Wed v Portsmouth
Swansea C v Manchester City

Third division

Bolton W v Gillingham
Bradford C v Sheffield Utd
Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth
Exeter C v Wigan Ath
Newport County v Burnley
Orient v Lincoln C
Port Vale v Millwall
Rotherham Utd v Brentford
Southport v Plymouth Argyle
Walsley v Oxford Utd
Wimbledon v Hull C

Fourth division

Blackpool v Bury
Chester v Hereford Utd
Chesterfield v Hartlepool C
Colchester Utd v Watford R
Crewe Alex v Peterborough Utd
Darlington v Torquay Utd
Northampton T v Halifax T
Reading v Bristol City
Rochdale v Wrexham
Swindon T v Aldershot



Mark Walters: Makes his home debut for Liverpool against West Ham United.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division Everton v Stoke.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Birmingham v Arsenal (2.0), Ipswich v Luton (2.15), Oxford Utd v Swansea, Tottenham v Charlton (2.0), Watford v QPR Rangers, West Ham v Brighton (2.0).
IRISH CUP: Semi-final: Ballymena v Clontarf, Clontarf v Carrigrohane.
IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Clontarf v Drogheda, Drogheda v Limerick, Limerick v Derry, Derry v Sligo, Sligo v Londonderry, Londonderry v Carrigrohane.
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SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Chesham v Dorking, Dorking v Woking, Woking v Epsom, Epsom v Reigate, Reigate v Guildford, Guildford v Farnham, Farnham v Dorking.
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WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bristol v Exeter, Exeter v Bristol, Bristol v Exeter, Exeter v Bristol.

FOOTBALL: Fourth Division: York City v Doncaster (2.0). **FOOTBALL COMBINATION:** Crystal Palace v Norwich (1.30).

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Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v Motherwell
Dundee v St Mirren
Hibernian v Dundee Utd
Rangers v Hearts
St Johnstone v Celtic

Scottish first division

Alloa v Partick
Brechin v Moray
Clyde v Airdrie
Dumfries v Clydebank
Hamilton v Falkirk
Kilmarnock v Meadowbank
Raith v Ayr

Scottish second division

Albion v Queen's Park
Cowdenbeath v Berwick
Dunfermline v Arbroath
East Fife v Stenhousemuir
East Stirling v Stirling
Forfar v Stranraer
Montrose v Queen of South

RUGBY UNION

Wales v WIRU (Presidents' XV vs Cardiff)
Wales v Cardiff
Wales v Cardiff
Wales v Cardiff

JOHN PAPER CUP

Nottingham v Barnsley
Nottingham v Barnsley
Nottingham v Barnsley
Nottingham v Barnsley

CLUB MATCHES

Barnsley v Vale of Lune
Barnsley v Vale of Lune
Barnsley v Vale of Lune
Barnsley v Vale of Lune

INTER-SERVICES TOURNAMENT

The Army v RAF (at Twickenham)

FOURTH DIVISION

Blackpool v Bury
Chester v Hereford Utd
Chesterfield v Hartlepool C
Colchester Utd v Watford R
Crewe Alex v Peterborough Utd
Darlington v Torquay Utd
Northampton T v Halifax T
Reading v Bristol City
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WANTED

WANTED: Large Victorian style house, 12-14 rooms, 1500 sq ft, 1900 quality furniture, 01-220 4475.
AN SALVAGE & SON LTD: 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 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